

"Great Successor?"

Mystery surrounds son set to succeed Kim Jong Il

North Korean women cry after learning death of their leader Kim Jong Il on Monday, Dec. 19, 2011 in Pyongyang, North Korea. Kim died on Saturday, Dec. 17, North Korean state media announced Monday.

(AP Photo/Kyodo News)

JEAN H. LEE

Associated Press

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP) — With the sudden death of his father, Kim Jong Un went from being North Korea's "Respected General" to "Great Successor" — a heady and uncertain promotion for a young man virtually unknown even to the North Korean people just a year ago. Word of Kim Jong Il's death, announced Monday two days after he suffered a fatal heart attack, thrusts

his 20-something son in the spotlight as the future head of a nation grappling with difficult nuclear negotiations and chronic food shortages. Within hours of breaking the news of his father's death, state media urged the nation's people to rally around Kim Jong Un and to "faithfully revere" their next leader. The son has not appeared publicly since the announcement of his father's death.

The death speeds up a succession process that began in earnest a little more than a year ago — scant time to gain experience, build political clout and allay skepticism at home and abroad that he can lead a nation of 24 million. His father, by contrast, had 20 years of grooming before his father, North Korea founder Kim Il Sung, passed away in 1994. News of Kim's death shocked a nation largely kept in the dark about their

leader's health even after he suffered a stroke in 2008. Abroad, there was widespread speculation throughout 2009 about who would succeed the iron-fisted ruler. Kim Jong Un's emergence in September 2010 as the anointed successor settled the question of which of Kim Jong Il's three known sons was chosen as the third-generation leader in a family dynasty that has ruled since North Korea's post-World War II inception

in 1948. And his status as his father's anointed successor has become clear over the course of the past year. After appointing him vice chairman of the Central Military Commission of the ruling Workers' Party, Kim Jong Il unveiled the son to the world just weeks later at a massive military parade to celebrate a key party anniversary.

Continued on Page 2

Mystery surrounds son set to succeed Kim Jong Il

Continued from front

With the world's media in attendance and transmitting live video, the young son appeared on the balcony of the Grand People's Study Hall in a blue suit, waving as tanks loaded with long-range missiles barreled by.

Since that first glimpse of the son, North Koreans have seen him regularly on state TV, in the Pyongyang Times newspaper and in the Korean Central News Agency as he accompanied his father on trips around the country.

Stocky and youthful, he bears more than a passing resemblance to his grandfather,

Kim Il Sung, as a young man — a similarity that plays into the emphasis on lineage and legacy as just cause to make him leader. He began appearing with his father at state events and reportedly ran the



South Koreans watch a news reporting about the death of North Korean leader Kim Jong Il on TV screens at the Yongsan Electronic shop in Seoul, South Korea, Monday, Dec. 19, 2011. Kim Jong Il's death after 17 years as leader was announced Monday by state television two days after he died. He was 69.

country when Kim traveled to Russia and China, and is credited at home with orchestrating a deadly November 2010 artillery attack on a front-line South Korean island that nearly

brought the foes to the brink of another war.

Kim Jong Il's leadership was defined by his "songun" policy of putting the powerful military first. Kim Jong Un's formal ascension will

(AP Photo/Ahn Young-joon)
usher in a new era of leadership — but it remains to be seen what direction he will take the nation of 24 million people.

"It is impossible to say with certainty what his era

will look like. Trying to anticipate the near future is tough enough," said Andray Abrahamian, executive director of the Choson Exchange, a Singapore-based non-profit group that facilitates educational exchange with North Korea. "We expect greater caution and less willingness to try new things in the near term, making our programs more difficult to run. Things look like they're locking down already."

North Koreans have been told Kim Jong Un graduated from Kim Il Sung Military University; speaks several foreign languages, including English; and is a whiz at computing and technology. But they have not been told much else.

He is said to celebrate his birthday in January, but the year — or even the name of his mother — have not been revealed publicly. □

Alhambra Casino
ARUBA
A DIVI RESORTS PROPERTY

Alhambra Casino will be temporarily suspending our Something to Do 7 Days a Week daily promotions effective Monday, December 19. These promotions will resume effective Thursday, January 5.

We wish to thank you for your support in 2011 and look forward to seeing you in the 2012.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

THE BEST WAY TO SEE IT ALL

THIS WEEK ONLY! SAVE \$10*
PROMO CODE: T911

Space limited...book now! **Call 582-5600** After 5pm 592-4600

Natural Pool Safari: 8:30am-12:30pm/1pm-5:00pm
Visit the amazing Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins, Natural Bridge, Donkey Sanctuary, Arikok Hill Rock Formation, Arikok National Park, and the famous Natural Pool for swimming and snorkeling!
Included: Water, sodas and snorkeling gear

AWARDED "Best tour of the year" by Princess Cruises
"Savings is per couple, per coupon. Must call direct and mention promotional promo code prior to booking to qualify for savings. Tickets are non-refundable."

#1 JEEP TOUR by TripAdvisor

JEEP TOUR

ABC Safari Tours

Russia urges NATO to probe Libyan deaths

EDITH M. LEDERER

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Russia urged NATO on Monday to investigate civilian deaths in Libya from its bombing campaign, saying the alliance's claim that there were no civilian casualties is untrue. Russia's U.N. Ambassador Vitaly Churkin said he has been asking NATO to give "a definitive report" to the U.N. Security Council summing up its activities in Libya. But he said "unfortunately" the alliance only provided "piecemeal, rather perfunctory reports... (that) were not very informative." Russia holds the council presidency this month and Churkin told reporters he will raise the issue of civilian casualties when it discusses Libya on Thursday. Spokespeople for the U.S., British and French missions to the U.N. did not immediately respond to emails and phone calls asking for a reaction to Churkin's charges. NATO's 7-month air campaign against Libya was hailed as a triumph by the alliance and its supporters for setting the country on the path to a democratic transition after the ouster and killing of dictator Moammar Gadhafi. □

House set to reject extending payroll tax cut

JENNIFER STEINHAUER

OBERT PEAR

© 2011 New York Times

WASHINGTON — Speaker John A. Boehner said Monday that the House would reject a Senate plan for a two-month extension of payroll tax relief and unemployment benefits, and he called on Congress to work through the holidays if necessary to find agreement on longer-term legislation. But Senate Democratic leaders said they had no immediate plans to call the Senate back to work out a deal with the House, leaving the fate of the legislation, which would also prevent a 27 percent cut in Medicare payments to doctors, unclear.

At the same time, tensions increased between the Senate, which overwhelmingly approved the two-month extension Saturday, and the House. Sen. Scott Brown, a Republican facing re-election in Massachusetts, called his Republican colleagues in the House "irresponsible and wrong" for rejecting the Senate bill. "The refusal to compromise now threatens to increase taxes on hard-working Americans and stop unemployment benefits for those out of work," Brown said in a statement Monday. "During this time of divided government, both parties need to be reasonable and come to the negotiating table in good faith. We cannot allow rigid partisan



House Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio) reaffirms his commitment to pass a one-year extension to the payroll tax cut to a group of reporters on Capitol Hill in Washington, Dec. 19, 2011. Boehner said the House plans to vote down a two-month extension of the payroll tax cut the Senate passed last week.

(Philip Scott Andrews/The New York Times)

ideology and unwillingness to compromise stand in the way of working together for the good of the American people."

But Boehner told reporters that House Republicans were intent on pursuing a one-year continuation of the tax break.

"Americans are tired of Washington's short-term fixes and gimmicks, which are creating uncertainty for job creators at a time when millions of Americans are out of work," Boehner said Monday. "Democrats and Republicans agree that the payroll tax cut needs to be extended for a full year to provide the kind of relief that Americans need in this struggling economy."

By a vote of 89-10, the Senate on Saturday passed the bill dealing with payroll taxes, jobless benefits and Medicare for two months.

"We oppose the Senate bill because doing a two-month extension instead of a full-year extension causes uncertainty for job creators," Boehner said. "The idea that tax policy can be done two months at a time is the kind of activity we see here in Washington that has put our economy off its tracks."

But Senate Democrats appeared to be digging in against restarting negotiations until the House accepted the two-month extension to assure that the payroll taxes do not revert

to a higher level at the beginning of the year.

"I will not reopen negotiations until the House follows through and passes this agreement that was negotiated by Republican leaders and supported by 90 percent of the Senate," said Sen.

Harry Reid, D-Nev., the majority leader. "This is a question of whether the House of Representatives will be able to fulfill the basic legislative function of passing an overwhelmingly bipartisan agreement, in order to protect the economic security of millions of middle-class Americans."

But Boehner said he was eager to work though the holidays to prevent a tax increase next month.

"The president has said repeatedly that no one should be going on vacation until the work is done," Boehner said. "Democrat leaders in the House and Senate have said exactly the same thing. So I think it's time for Senate Democrat leaders to follow the president's example, put their vacations on hold and work in a bipartisan manner to finish the nation's business."

Boehner said the House would vote Monday night on the Senate version of the payroll tax bill, reject it and then vote on a motion to request a formal conference with the Senate to resolve differences between the two chambers. □

Attacks hurt Gingrich in Iowa, no letup pre-caucus

MANCHESTER, Iowa (AP) — The Republican presidential race here has been thrown wide open two weeks before the first votes in the battle for the party's nomination, as Newt Gingrich's standing in the crucial state of Iowa has been eroded by more than \$1 million in negative advertising — much of it bankrolled by allies of fellow frontrunner Mitt Romney.

The former House of Representatives leader's slide in Iowa mirrors his newfound troubles nationally, and it has boosted the confidence of Romney, his chief rival, in the leadoff caucus state on Jan. 3.

With the Iowa caucuses looming in two weeks, the race here is arguably anyone's to win. And the results will shape the rest of the



Republican presidential candidate, former House Speaker Newt Gingrich speaks during a campaign stop Global Security Services in Davenport, Iowa, Monday, Dec. 19, 2011.
(AP Photo/Chris Carlson)

state-by-state march to the Republican nomination. Gingrich has acknowledged that the onslaught of attacks on him has taken a toll and tested his pledge to keep his criticism focused on Democratic President Barack Obama.

Aides for several campaigns competing against Gingrich as well as out-

side independent groups aligned with the rival candidates say their internal polls find that he has fallen over the last week from the top slot in Iowa. And a national Gallup poll released Monday found Gingrich's support plummeting: He had the backing of 26 percent of Republican voters nationally, down from 37 percent on Dec. 8. Romney's support was largely unchanged at 24 percent.

Gingrich rushed back to Iowa on Monday after a three-day absence for several days of campaigning before voters tune out this weekend for the Christmas holiday.

He told about 200 people in the garage of a security company in Davenport that he would launch a 44-stop Jobs and Prosperity

tour before the caucuses, and use those events to answer any charges put out there.

Gingrich's weakened position follows a barrage of advertising that cast him as a longtime Washington power-broker. The ads, primarily financed by so-called super political action committees, underscore the power of independent groups following a Supreme Court decision last year that allowed individuals, unions and corporations to donate unlimited amounts of money to outfits advocating the election or defeat of political candidates.

Since the ruling, groups have popped up to work on behalf of every serious Republican presidential candidate.

Gingrich has redoubled his appeals to conservatives, who make up the base of the Republican party, with sharp criticism of the judiciary, saying he would have the Justice Department instruct the U.S. Marshal service to arrest judges who ignore subpoenas to testify in Congress about their decisions.

Romney joined those criticizing Gingrich's comments on judges, telling Fox News in an interview Monday that Gingrich's idea of sending authorities after judges was neither constitutional nor practical.

"Let me tell you, there are a lot of decisions by judges I vehemently disagree with," Romney said. "The solution to judges out of control is not to tear up the Constitution and say that the Congress of the United States becomes the now ultimate power in this country. ... In the Constitution, there is a method for removing a justice. There's also a method for reversing their decisions."

Meanwhile, an anonymous independent group calling itself Iowans for Christian Leadership is urging conservatives not to back Gingrich, in light of his two divorces and past marital infidelity. The group has issued fliers and posted a scathing online video aimed at Gingrich. □

Deadly snowstorm halts travel around US



Oregon's Mount Hood looms over traffic on Highway 26 near Sandy, Ore. A late-autumn snowstorm lumbered into the U.S. heartland on Monday, unleashing snow and fierce winds that turned roads to ice, reduced visibility to zero and jeopardized thousands of holiday motorists' travel plans just two days before the official start of winter.

**JERI CLAUSING
ROXANA HEGEMAN
Associated Press
ALBUQUERQUE, New Mexico (AP)** — A late-autumn snowstorm lumbered into the U.S. heartland on Monday, unleashing snow and fierce winds that turned roads to ice, reduced visibility to zero and jeopard-

dized thousands of holiday motorists' travel plans just two days before the official start of winter. The storm was blamed for at least two deaths in the state of Colorado. A guard and an inmate were killed after a prison van lost control on an icy highway on Colorado's plains. Eight other inmates

and a prison employee were hospitalized with moderate to serious injuries, the Colorado State Patrol said. From New Mexico and Texas through Oklahoma and Kansas, blizzard conditions put state road crews on alert and had motorists taking refuge and early exits off major roads.

Linda Pape, general manager of a Super 8 motel in New Mexico said it was packed with unhappy skiers who had been headed to lodges in Colorado and elsewhere in New Mexico.

Pape said it's not uncommon for skiers to get stuck during the winter, and she keeps two freezers and a refrigerator stocked in case roads are closed.

"They are not happy, but we are not letting them go hungry," she said.

The storm came after much of the country had a relatively mild autumn. With the exception of the October snowstorm blamed for 29 deaths on the East Coast, there's been little rain or snow. Many of the areas hit Monday enjoyed relatively balmy 60-degrees Fahrenheit (15.5-Celsius) temperatures just 24 hours earlier.

The snow moved into Oklahoma early Monday morning, and 1.5 inches (3.8 centimeters) accumulated in about an hour, said Vicki Roberts, who owns the Black Mesa Bed and Breakfast in Kenton. Her inn sits at the base of the 4,973-foot (1,515-meter)-tall Black Mesa, the highest point in Oklahoma. Looking out her window, she couldn't see it. □

(AP Photo/Don Ryan)

Witness: Manning said leak would lift 'fog of war'

DAVID DISHNEAU
PAULINE JELINEK
Associated Press
FORT MEADE, Maryland
(AP) — The Army intelligence analyst blamed for the biggest leak of secrets in U.S. history boastfully declared that he was changing history in a letter accompanying some of the data he allegedly sent to WikiLeaks, according to a witness in the military's case against Army Pfc. Bradley Manning.

"This is possibly one of the more significant documents of our time, removing the fog of war and revealing the true nature of 21st century asymmetric warfare. Have a good day," the file read. The text, along with almost 500,000 classified battlefield reports, was on a data card that investigators found among Manning's belongings, according to digital-crimes investigator David Shaver.

The letter represented the most forceful piece of evidence yet introduced in a military hearing to determine whether the 24-year-old should be court-martialed. In a back-and-forth on the digital case against Manning, the prosecution said evidence showed that Manning communicated directly with WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange, sent the nearly 500,000 classified battlefield reports to the anti-secrecy website and bragged to someone else about leaking video of a 2007 helicopter attack to WikiLeaks.

Investigators said in one May 2010 exchange between Manning and a mathematician named Eric Schmiedl. "Are you familiar with WikiLeaks?" Manning allegedly asked. "Yes, I am," Schmiedl wrote. "I was the source of the July 12, 2007, video from the Apache Weapons Team which killed the two journalists and injured two kids," Manning wrote, according to the prosecution. Throughout the hearing, Manning's defense lawyers countered that others

had access to Manning's workplace computers and pressed Shaver into conceding that some files in a batch of 10,000 State Department cables on Manning's computer didn't match documents published by WikiLeaks. He said another 100,000 cables couldn't be matched to Manning's user profile. But it was unclear if the cross-examination damaged the prosecution's case in any way. Until Monday, the defense largely focused on painting Manning as an emotionally troubled homosexual serving in the military's "don't ask, don't tell"

era, and arguing that the classified material proved harmless in the open anyhow. Manning's lawyers have yet to acknowledge or deny his responsibility for the leak of hundreds of thousands of U.S. war and diplomatic cables, and a classified military video of an American helicopter attack in Iraq that killed 11 men.

During one of several recesses, Manning leaned back and sat casually in his chair, chatting with a soldier from the defense team, gesturing with his hands, nodding his head and occasionally smiling. □



David Coombs, right, attorney for Army Pfc. Bradley Manning, walks out of the courthouse and towards his workspace in Fort Meade, Md., Monday, Dec. 19, 2011. The military court is conducting a that will determine if Manning should face court-martial for his alleged role in the WikiLeaks classified leaks case. Manning is suspected of being the source in one of the largest unauthorized disclosures of classified information in U.S. history. (AP Photo/Cliff Owen)



PALM BEACH PLAZA

Exhilarate Your Senses



Casa Tua

Casa Tua invites diners to experience authentic Mediterranean cuisine like Greek moussaka, and of course, Casa Tua's famous thin-crust pizza.

For reservations call: 5868275



Hoshi

At Hoshi Sushi & Bar, located on the second floor, Japanese and Thai cuisines are prepared with the freshest Caribbean ingredients

For reservations call: 5860770



TASTE OF BELGIUM

This new restaurant combines fabulous food with great drinks, but also provides a cozy atmosphere where guests can meet friends and hold business meetings

For reservations call: 5866388



Food Court

Offering a great variety of pizza's, hamburgers, ribs, pasta and churro's Palm Beach Plaza's Foodcourt is located on the third floor and opened daily from 12:00 pm till 10:00 pm

Located close to the Marriott Hotel and within walking distance of the Hi-Rise area

For more information call (297) 586-0045 or visit www.palmbeachplaza.com

• SHOPPING • FINE DINING • FAMILY FUN •



JOLLY PIRATES

SAIL, SNORKEL, SWIM & SWING!

DAILY 9-1:30pm \$57pp
Visit 3 Great sites with BBQ, Open Bar, Gear & Ropeswing!

AFTERNOON SNORKEL

DAILY 2:30-5:30pm \$38pp Shorter version with Open Bar, Gear & Ropeswing!

SUNSET SAIL

Mon & Fri 5-7pm only \$30pp
Open Bar included & Ropeswing!

YO HO HO! DINNER CRUISE

Tue, Wed, Thur, Fri 6:30-9:30pm only \$75pp
Join our crew for Pirate Feast, Open Bar & Ropeswing!

\$10
Off

Tickets available at Jolly Pirates Shop at MooMba Beach. Boarding at MooMba Beach- by the high rise hotels between Holiday Inn and Marriott Resorts. Offer not valid in combination with other discount offers. Valid For direct telephone reservations ONLY - Present coupon at boarding

586 8107/592 7858

Save \$10 per couple/per coupon for morning & dinner cruise
Save \$5 per couple/per coupon for afternoon cruise

Obama criticizes Venezuela's ties to Iran, Cuba

WASHINGTON / CARACAS(AP) — President Barack Obama criticized Venezuela's human rights record and its ties to Iran and Cuba, telling a Venezuelan newspaper in comments published Monday that he is concerned about threats to democracy in the country. Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez responded several hours later, calling Obama "a clown" for raising concerns and telling the U.S. president not to meddle in Venezuela's domestic affairs. "Mr. Obama came out, attacking us, but that's not out of the ordinary for us," Chavez said, speaking on state television. "Obama, take care of your own business, focus on governing your country, which you've turned into a disaster," Chavez added. "Leave us alone." While Chavez has long feuded with Washington,



President Barack Obama delivers a statement in the Brady Press Briefing Room at the White House in Washington following the Senate vote to approve legislation extending a Social Security payroll tax cut and long-term jobless benefits for two months. Obama says it would be "inexcusable" for Congress not to extend a payroll tax cut for the rest of 2012 when lawmakers return from their holiday break.
(AP Photo/Manuel Balce Ceneta)

Obama's remarks published by the newspaper El Universal were some of his most critical to date. "We're concerned about the government's actions, which have restricted the universal rights of the Venezuelan people, threatened basic democratic values and failed to contribute to the security in the region," Obama said in written responses to questions from the newspaper. "In Venezuela, we have

been deeply concerned to see action taken to restrict the freedom of the press, and to erode the separation of powers that is necessary for democracy to thrive," Obama said. "In all countries of the region, we want to see elections that are free and fair." Chavez has repeatedly accused the U.S. of trying to meddle in Venezuela's affairs and even to overthrow him. He is up for reelection in October, seeking to extend his 13-year presidency. The leftist leader has cru-

saded against U.S. influence in Latin America and has built close ties to several other antagonists of Washington around the globe. U.S. officials have expressed concern at Chavez's growing ties with Iran, and also have also said Venezuela isn't doing enough to combat terrorism or drug trafficking. Obama said he hopes to eventually have a better relationship with Venezuela: "I look forward to the day when our governments can work more closely to advance the aspirations of our people." □

US teen sentenced for killing gay student

GREG RISLING

Associated Press

VENTURA, California (AP) — A teen who fatally shot a gay classmate in the back of the head during a computer lab nearly four years ago was sentenced Monday to 21 years in state prison, capping an emotional case that focused attention on how schools deal with sexual identity. Brandon McInerney, 17, dressed in a white T-shirt and blue pants, didn't speak at the hearing, but his lawyer said his client was sorry for killing 15-year-old Larry King. "He feels deeply remorseful and stated repeatedly if he could go back and take back what he did, he would do it in a heartbeat," Scott Wippert said. McInerney will report to prison next month, after he turns 18. He pleaded guilty to second-degree murder, voluntary manslaughter and unlawful use of a firearm after jurors deadlocked during his trial as an adult on a first-degree murder charge. Several jurors said afterward that they didn't think McInerney should have been tried as an adult. McInerney had just turned 14 when he shot King in front of shocked classmates at E.O. Green Junior High School in Oxnard on Feb. 12, 2008. Prosecutors alleged it was a hate crime driven by homophobic rage because King wore girl's clothing and flirted with McInerney. The killing became a flashpoint for gay rights groups that said it was further evidence that children often pay a horrible price when they come out. Comic Ellen DeGeneres, a lesbian, weighed in on her talk show and said gays shouldn't be treated as second-class citizens. □

The Promenade Restaurant
L.G. Smith Blvd. 160, near the low rise Hotels

SPECIAL

"ALL YOU CAN EAT"

not valid with other promotion

\$ 32,50

CLOSED ON MONDAY
Sun Plaza Tel: 583-8899

Come Join the Fun

Casino Bonanza Earn entries every day of the week with your winning combinations on tables and slots

Drawings every Tuesday at 9, 10 and 11pm, for exciting prizes

FREE Premium Drinks! while playing slots or table games

THE CASINO Radisson ARUBA

Fun Slots • Aruba's Hottest Poker Room Action • Weekly Tournaments & Promotions

The Casino at the Radisson. Open daily from 12 noon to 4am. Saturday & Sunday 11am to 4pm. For information call +297 586 4045

2 Muslim men kicked off flight sue air carriers

TRAVIS LOLLER

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tennessee (AP)

— Two Muslim men who say they were kicked off an airplane in May after the pilot objected to their presence are suing Delta Air Lines Inc. and a regional carrier that operated the Delta Connection flight from Memphis to Charlotte, North Carolina.

According to a suit filed Monday in federal court in Memphis, Masudur Rahman and Mohamed Zaghloul were traveling to Charlotte to attend a conference on anti-Muslim discrimination at the time.

Rahman, who is an adjunct instructor of Arabic at the University of Memphis, has said he was dressed in traditional Indian clothing. Zaghloul, who is a religious leader with the Islamic Association of Greater Memphis, was dressed in Arab garb that included traditional headgear.

The two passed through regular security screening and were waiting at the gate to board when they were pulled out of line and subjected to a second security check, according to the suit. They were questioned about their trip and their luggage and belongings were searched before the men were cleared and allowed to board.

Shortly after the plane pulled away from the gate, the pilot announced the aircraft was returning to the terminal. Once there, according to the suit, the men were pulled off the plane, asked more questions and searched again, this time



A Delta airlines jet takes off at the Detroit Metropolitan Airport in Romulus, Mich. Two Muslim men who say they were kicked off an airplane in May after the pilot objected to their presence are suing Delta Air Lines Inc. and a regional carrier that operated the Delta Connection flight from Memphis to Charlotte, North Carolina.

(AP Photo/Carlos Osorio)

with a "comprehensive body pat down."

Although they were again cleared to board, the pilot refused to allow them back on the plane, the suit claimed.

The plane began to depart without the men when an unnamed airline official called it back and it returned to the gate for a

second time.

The suit claims the official then boarded the plane and spoke with the pilot, who said he would not allow Rahman and Zaghloul on the plane because their presence could make other passengers uncomfortable.

According to the suit, the official told passengers

that anyone who was apprehensive about the presence of the two men could take a different plane and would be given a generous voucher.

There were no takers. The pilot still refused to allow the men to board and they were booked on a later flight, the suit said.

Delta and Atlantic Southeast Airlines Inc., which is owned by SkyWest Inc., issued a statement Monday that read: "Atlantic Southeast and Delta oppose discrimination in any form from any source, and our employees act at all times in the best interest of passenger safety and security. We cannot comment further on pending litigation." Both airlines are based in Atlanta.

Federal regulation allows an airline to refuse to transport an individual who it decides is unsafe. The plane's

captain has ultimate authority. But the decision cannot be made solely on the basis of person's race, color, national origin, religion, ethnicity, or sex.

"Defendants excluded Mr. Rahman and Mr. Zaghloul because of the way they looked," the suit claims. "They had beards, wore traditional Arabic clothing, and were visibly foreign. Defendants unlawfully relied upon these characteristics to conclude that Mr. Rahman and Mr. Zaghloul were security threats, disallowing them from utilizing their purchased tickets."

The suit said the two were traveling to a conference on "Islamophobia," and how Muslims religious leaders could help address this issue."

The suit seeks unspecified compensation for the men's losses and injuries as well as punitive damages. □

FOR SALE



Las Rocas 17-D

We just listed this 3-bedroom/2 bathroom first floor, one-storey courtyard condo, located in the upscale community 'Tierra del Sol' with lots of community facilities. The condo is well maintained, recently painted and ready to move in. The total area is 139m² and comes with a one car garage.

US \$ 389.000,-

Century 21
Best & Solid Real Estate

Palm Beach 4-G
Tel.: 586 4242
www.arubahouses.com

Gasparito
PH 967044 RESTAURANT-ART GALLERY

Authentic Aruban Cuisine...

Gasparito #3 • Noord, Aruba
Tel: (297) 586-7144 / 586-7044

Don't forget about our early bird special from 5:30 to 6:30



\$5 Bingo

Mon-Tue-Wed-Thurs-Fri-Sat. 3:30PM

Sun - 2PM PowerBall / Progressive

POWER - BALL - PROGRESSIVE

Iraqi government accuses top official in assassinations

JACK HEALY

© 2011 New York Times

BAGHDAD – Iraq's Shiite-dominated government was thrown into crisis Monday night as authorities issued an arrest warrant for the Sunni vice president, accusing him of running a personal death squad that assassinated security officials and government bureaucrats.

The sensational charges against Tariq al-Hashimi,

one of the country's most prominent Sunni leaders, threatened to enflame widening sectarian and political conflicts in Iraq just one day after the last convoy of U.S. troops rolled out of the country into Kuwait.

The accusations were broadcast over Iraqi television, in a half-hour of grainy video confessions from three men identified as al-Hashimi's bodyguards. They spoke of how they had



Tariq al-Hashimi, a vice president of Iraq, speaks to reporters after a lunch meeting of Iraq's main political players in Baghdad. Iraq's Shiite-dominated government was thrown into crisis on Monday night as authorities issued an arrest warrant for al-Hashimi, accusing him of running a personal death squad that assassinated security officials and government bureaucrats.

(Holly Pickett/The New York Times)

planted bombs in public squares, driven up to convoys carrying Iraqi officials and opened fire.

Under the direction of al-Hashimi's top aides, the men said, they gunned

down convoys carrying Shiite officials and planted roadside bombs in traffic circles and wealthy neighborhoods of Baghdad, then detonated them as their targets drove by. One

of the men said al-Hashimi had handed him an envelope with \$3,000 after one of the attacks.

It was impossible to substantiate any of the accusations aired in the confessions. □



Aruban Bankers Association

CLOSING HOURS

CHRISTMAS WEEKEND:

Friday, December 23rd, 2011 at 12:00 noon.

Saturday, December 24th, 2011 closed.

Sunday, December 25th, 2011 closed.

Monday, December 26th, 2011 closed.

NEW YEAR WEEKEND:

Friday, December 30th, 2011 at 12:00 noon.

Saturday, December 31st, 2011 closed.

Sunday, January 1st, 2012 closed.

Monday, January 2nd, 2012 closed.



Happy Holidays and
a Prosperous 2012.

Syria agrees to allow Arab League observers

KAREEM FAHIM

HWAIDA SAAD

© 2011 New York Times

CAIRO – The Syrian government, bowing to international pressure to end its violent crackdown on protests, signed an Arab League initiative on Monday that would send outside observers to the country within days.

President Bashar Assad's opponents quickly dismissed the move as a ploy, saying that the government would find ways to thwart the observers.

The agreement calls on the Syrian government to remove its forces and heavy weaponry from restive cit-

ies and to open a dialogue with opposition groups. Syria had agreed to the proposal, but had resisted signing it. It did so after both Russia, its close ally, and the Arab League threatened to bring Syria before the U.N. Security Council.

The Syrian foreign minister, Walid al-Moallem, called the signing "the beginning of cooperation between us and the Arab League."

"We are keen on ending the current situation as soon as possible," he said, speaking to reporters in Damascus on Monday.

The developments came as Syrian opposition groups and rights activists reported

that dozens of people had been killed on Monday in new violence across the country.

The dead included nine people in the northern province of Idlib, near the Turkish border, according to the Local Coordination Committees, an umbrella group of opposition organizations.

Among the government's opponents, doubts run deep about Syria's willingness to comply with the spirit of the Arab League agreement. "They will try to block it or foil it by all means," said Louay Hussein, a journalist and longtime government opponent in Damascus. □

Rights groups accuse Europe of CIA flights coverup

JILL LAWLESS

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — A majority of 28 mostly European countries have failed to comply with freedom of information requests about their involvement in secret CIA flights carrying suspected terrorists, two human rights groups say.

London-based Reprieve and Madrid-based Access Info Europe on Monday accused European nations of covering up their complicity in the so-called "extraordinary rendition" program by failing to release flight-traffic data that could show the paths of the planes.

The groups said only seven of 28 countries had supplied the requested information. Five countries said they no longer had the data, three refused to release it and 13 had not replied more than 10 weeks after the requests were made.

Europe's silence is in contrast to the United States, which handed over Federal Aviation Administration records with data on more than 27,000 flight segments. The groups' report said that the U.S. had provided "by far the most comprehensive

response" and accused European countries of lagging behind when it came to transparency.

"Is it an access to information problem, or is it a problem with this particular issue? It's a bit of both," said Access Info Europe executive director Helen Darbishire. "European countries have not completely faced up to their role here."

Human rights campaigners have worked for years to piece together information on hundreds of covert flights that shuttled suspected terrorists between CIA-run overseas prisons and the U.S. military base at Guantanamo Bay as part of the post-Sept. 11 "War on Terror."

The CIA has never acknowledged specific locations, but prisons overseen by U.S. officials reportedly operated in Thailand, Afghanistan, Lithuania, Poland and Romania — where terror suspects including Khalid Sheik Mohammad, mastermind of the Sept. 11 attacks, were interrogated in the basement of a government building in the capital, Bu-



Between 2003 and 2006, the CIA operated a secret prison from the building's basement, bringing in high-value terror suspects for interrogation and detention. A majority of 28 mostly European countries have failed to comply with freedom of information requests about their involvement in secret CIA flights carrying suspected terrorists, two human rights groups say.

(AP Photo/GeoEye)

charest.

Human rights advocates claim that the CIA used the program to outsource torture of detainees to countries where it is permitted.

In a 2007 probe, Swiss politician Dick Marty accused 14 European governments of permitting the CIA to run detention centers or carry out rendition flights over their territories between 2002 and 2005.

The European prisons were closed by May 2006, and the CIA's detention and interrogation program ended in 2009.

The Council of Europe estimated in 2007 that 1,245 CIA-operated flights had passed over the continent, but an accurate count may be impossible. □

Police find several bodies in Mexico clandestine graves

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Prosecutors announced Monday they have found another clandestine grave holding 10 bodies in the northern Mexico state of Durango, bringing to 14 the number of such burial sites found in the state this year.


Soldiers found the 10 bodies last week in a field on the outskirts of the state capital, also called Durango, said Raymundo Enriquez, the spokesman for the Durango state prosecutors' office.

The total number of bodies believed related to drug gang violence found so far this year in clandestine graves in Durango now stands at 287, including the most recent discovery.

The sheer number of bodies overwhelmed the Durango forensic examiner's storage facilities, forcing authorities to rent a refrigerated truck. Authorities have so far been

able to identify only about two dozen of the bodies; most have been buried again in common graves, after no relatives claimed them. Police in the city of Durango have offered no motives in the killings, but officials have said the killings are the result of an internal power struggle within the Sinaloa drug cartel, Mexico's most powerful gang. Also Monday, prosecutors say two mutilated bodies were found scattered in the plaza of a central Mexican town while a boy was killed around the same time in what police say may have been a related crime.

The Morelos state Attorney General's Office said a young man's torso was found early Monday on a basketball court in the town of Pueblo Viejo south of Mexico City. □



SUNSET GRILLE

Sunday Champagne Brunch


At Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa
From 11:00am to 2:00pm

A unique brunch experience combining
Elegant A La Carte dining with
abundant Buffet style choices

Price: \$35 p.p.+ service charge

Teen 12-17 years = **\$20**. Children 6-11 years = **\$12**
Kids under six are **FREE**

Seating overlooking the tropical garden or indoor in the conditioned dining room.
Live Entertainment



ARUBA
RESORT, CASINO & SPA

Reservations: 526 6612 and 526 6613

Protests continue in western Kazakhstan

MICHAEL SCHWIRTZ

© 2011 New York Times

MOSCOW — Hundreds of people took to the streets in western Kazakhstan on Monday in defiance of a bloody police crackdown on striking oil workers that has caused dozens of casualties in the oil-rich Central Asian nation.

The protest in the city of Aktau on the Caspian Sea followed three days of clashes between police and the striking workers in several cities in the region. The authorities have put the death toll from those clashes at 14, though witnesses and human rights workers have said the number of dead could be many times higher. Scores more have reportedly been injured. Apparently in an effort to ease tensions, Kazakhstan's prime minister on Monday announced the forming of a government commission to investigate the violence and address the grievances of the striking workers, the Russian news agency, Interfax, reported.

The clashes began on Friday

in the city of Zhanaozen, not far from Aktau. For reasons that are still unclear, the police opened fire on oil workers who had been

opened fire after several hundred protesters blocked railroad tracks. One person was killed and dozens were wounded, authorities said.



In this photo taken on Monday, Dec. 19, 2011, riot police deploy in the center of the southwestern Kazakhstan city of Aktau, as demonstrators attempt to enter the main square in protest over clashes between police and striking oil workers during which 14 people were killed. Authorities laid responsibility on the clashes on troublemakers they say were disrupting celebrations Friday to mark the 20th anniversary of Kazakhstan's independence.

(AP Photo/Peter Leonard)

holding a continuous strike in a central square for six months apparently over a wage dispute. Officials said 13 people were killed. Then on Saturday, the violence spread to the nearby city of Shetpe, where police

The workers in Zhanaozen appear to have grown angry when officials began installing holiday decorations for a government-sponsored children's party, which they felt was a ruse to remove them from the square, witnesses said. □

Father disputes Iran's claim son was CIA spy

COREY WILLIAMS

Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — An Iranian-American who appeared on Iran's state TV is not a CIA spy as authorities in that country claim and was visiting relatives when he was detained, his father said Monday.

Iran's state TV broadcast video Sunday of 28-year-old Amir Mirzaei Hekmati and said he was a CIA spy who sought to infiltrate Iran's secret services.

The TV said he had received special training and served at U.S. military bases before heading to Iran.

But Ali Hekmati told The Associated Press Monday that his son was visiting his grandmothers in Tehran when he was detained and never worked for the CIA.

"He is not a spy. It's a whole bunch of lies on my good son," said Ali Hekmati, a microbiology professor at Mott Community College in Flint, northwest of Detroit. "They have lied about any American ... captured in Iran for visiting or tourism, or for any other reason."

The CIA declined to comment, as did State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland.

Iran and the U.S. are locked in a complicated intelligence and technological battle, and the video of Hekmati comes weeks after Iran first displayed a nearly intact American spy drone that it claims it captured and brought down. U.S. officials say the unmanned aircraft malfunctioned and has demanded Iran return the top-secret aircraft. Iran has refused.

Ali Hekmati said his son was a former Arabic translator in the U.S. Marines who entered Iran about four months ago. At the time, he was working in Qatar as a contractor for a company "that served the Marines," his father said, without providing more specific details. "My wife tried to talk him out of it," Ali Hekmati said of the visit to Iran. "The first two weeks went without incident."

The third week in Tehran, some people visited him and took him away. Nobody heard from him in the next three months."

He later saw on a YouTube broadcast of an Iranian program that said Amir was "locked up" and accused of "being a spy for the CIA." "I have no idea what they are going to do with my son," he said. "I'm worried to death. I love my son. I'm very sorry he's in the predicament he's in." He said he's working with attorneys in Tehran to gain his son's release.

Amir Hekmati was born in Arizona and graduated from Central High School in Flint. From there, his son joined the Marines, the 61-year-old Ali Hekmati said.

He declined to give the name of the company he worked for or say what type of work it performed, but Ali Hekmati said Amir — as a former Marine — "was fitting into the job perfectly." From March to August 2010, the younger Hekmati worked for BAE Systems, said company spokesman Brian Roehrke. □

PHILIPS ANIMAL GARDEN
Habitat for Rescued Animals
ARUBA'S HABITAT FOR MORE THAN 50 DIFFERENT SPECIES

\$4 off
On animal feeding bag or t-shirt

Opening Hours:
9 AM - 5 PM
non-stop

+297 593 5363
Alto Vista 116 (next to the chapel)
www.philipsanimalgarden.com

JEEP TOUR ADVENTURE!



HUNGRY FOR THRILLING FUN & ADVENTURE?

FEEL THE ADRENALINE RUSH WITH A 6-HOUR OFF-ROAD ADVENTURE TO THE NATURAL POOL AND BEYOND.

WE GIVE YOU MUCH MORE FOR MUCH LESS OR YOUR MONEY BACK!

INCLUDED: SNACKS, REFRESHMENTS & AN ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT DINNER BUFFET AT PALM BEACH (VALUE: \$ 35).

FREE PICK-UP & DROP-OFF!

PRICE: USD 77 P/P, SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS FROM 14:00 TO 20:00.



LIMITED AVAILABILITY! BOOK NOW: 5829444 OR 7440000

WE AT ALL-DRIVE CAR RENTAL OFFER YOU A REGULAR SIZE CAR FOR \$30 P/DAY!

An emergency landing, dimly remembered

ELIE SEIDMAN

© 2011 New York Times

I think a lot of flying is not enjoyable, but I still think it's fascinating. I was in Africa this year, flying around in a small plane, close to the ground, and it gave me a very visceral sense of the fact that I was in a piece of metal, hurling through the air. I liked it. It certainly was more interesting than being boxed up in a huge commercial jet. I've traveled so much that I laugh at myself. I've been to China and wound up staying at a communist "reward resort," where I guess the better communists got to go for some rest and relaxation. I've been to Italy, rented a motorcycle since I figured that was the quickest way to get to my destination, and spent three hours circling around Siena because I couldn't figure out the maze of roads. I've also met a lot of Transportation Security Administration personnel when I would be called out of line because my boarding pass had four S's written on it, apparently code for extra screening. My business trips used to involve visiting about 15 cities scattered across the United States, and I had to book several different airlines, with a one-way ticket on



Elie Seidman, chief executive of Oyster.com, in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico. Oyster.com, provides hotel reviews and undoctored photos of properties. Seidman said he has had many adventures traveling.

(Oyster.com via The New York Times)

each of those airlines. The computer algorithm saw me not as a traveling sales manager, but rather as a threat. Fortunately, that stopped. No matter what, it's important to remain calm. Sleeping pills help. I was flying from Kennedy Airport to Paris several years ago. I wasn't looking forward to the long flight, and someone suggested that I take a sleeping aid. I had no experience with taking that kind of drug. I didn't know what to expect, and to be perfectly honest here, I probably washed it down with a bourbon. I was conked out. Some time later, I groggily awoke to a lot of noise and saw all the attendants running to the back of the plane. I felt the plane make a rather clear and

fast descent. I'm attuned to how the planes feel as they change direction. It seemed like a very weird

place to make a descent, since we were pretty much in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean.

The pilot came over the intercom and said in that stereotypic pilot drawl that we were experiencing a "minor issue" and were going to make a quick touchdown and then be on the Paris in "no time." A short time later, we landed in Gander, Newfoundland. I still had no clue what was going on, and I really didn't care because I was so out of it. It was like I was watching things in slow motion. The next thing I know a bunch of cops came barreling onto the plane and grabbed this enormous French guy from the back of the plane. □

THE CINEMAS

thecinemas.aw

Valid till Dec. 21

AT RENAISSANCE		AT PASEO HERENCIA	
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS 3	daily: 5:15 - 7:30 - 9:45 matinee: 12:45 - 3:00 late show: 12:00	ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS 3	daily: 4:15 - 6:30 - 8:45 matinee: 12:00 - 2:00 late show: 11:00
YOUNG ADULT	daily: 6:00 - 8:30 matinee: 1:00 - 3:30 late show: 11:00	YOUNG ADULT	daily: 4:15 - 6:45 - 9:00 matinee: 1:45 late show: 11:30
NEW YEARS EVE	daily: 6:15 - 9:00 matinee: 12:45 - 3:30 late show: 11:45	NEW YEARS EVE	daily: 5:30 - 8:15 matinee: 12:00 - 2:45 late show: 11:00
NEW KIDS NITRO	daily: 5:15 - 7:30 - 9:30 matinee: 11:30	NOVA ZEMBLA	daily: 6:00 - 8:30 matinee: 11:15
ARTHUR CHRISTMAS	daily: 12:30 - 3:30 late show: 11:30	ARTHUR CHRISTMAS	daily: 4:45 matinee: 12:00 - 2:30 late show: 11:00
HAPPY FEET IN 2D	daily: 12:15 - 2:45 matinee: 12:15 - 2:45 late show: 11:00	HAPPY FEET IN 2D	daily: 12:15 - 2:45 matinee: 12:15 - 2:45 late show: 11:00
HUGO	daily: 12:00 - 3:00 matinee: 12:00 - 3:00 late show: 11:00	HUGO	daily: 12:00 - 3:00 matinee: 12:00 - 3:00 late show: 11:00
THE TWILIGHT SAGA: BREAKING DAWN PART 1	daily: 6:00 - 8:45 matinee: 11:30	THE TWILIGHT SAGA: BREAKING DAWN PART 1	daily: 5:30 - 8:15 matinee: 11:15
THE SITTER	daily: 6:00 - 8:30 matinee: 11:00	THE SITTER	daily: 7:15 - 9:45 matinee: 12:00

Matinee: fri - wed | Late show: fri & sat

Weekend Theme Nights

Great Value • Award Winning Cuisine • Genuine Hospitality • Tropical Ambiance

Join us for a Festive Buffet

Including: Gourmet Salad Bar, Peel N Eat Shrimp, Hand Rolled Sushi, Specialty Entrees, a different Chef Carved Specialty nightly, Homemade Desserts, Crêpe & Ice Cream Station

Served from 5:30pm to 10:30pm, last seating at 10:00 pm

Thursday Chateaubriand Night

Soup of the Night: Pumpkin Soup
Chef's Carving: Slow Roasted Beef Tenderloin • Béarnaise Sauce and Chimichuri
Selected Entrees: Tilapia Fillet, White Wine Sauce • Roasted Turkey with Gravy • Braised Pork Bourguignon
Side Dishes: Pilaf Rice • Fettuccini with Escargot • Garlic Mashed Potatoes • Ratatouille

Friday Seafood Night

Soup of the Night: Seafood Chowder
Chef's Carving: Salmon Wellington, in Puff Pastry with White Fish Mousse & Spinach, Lemon Caper Sauce
Selected Entrees: Grouper Fillet Creole • Seafood Newburg • Garlic Shrimp • Chicken Curry
Side Dishes: Jasmine Rice • Penne Pasta in Clam Sauce • Vegetable Medley • Fried Plantain

Saturday Prime Rib Night

Soup of the Night: Onion Soup
Chef Carved: Slow Roasted, USA Prime Rib, au Jus
Selected Entrees: Roasted Lamb Garlic & Herb • Stirfried Chicken • Cajun Fish Fillet, Cilantro Sauce
Side Dishes: Baked Potatoes with Condiment • Macaroni & Cheese • Sautéed Green Beans & Mushrooms • Stuffed Tomatoes

US\$30 Inclusive

per person • \$9.00 children under 12

For reservations call 526 6670 or 5266613

TASTE OF BELGIUM

RESTAURANT

OPEN DAILY 7AM - 1AM | BREAKFAST LUNCH | DINNER | DRINKS

**A warm welcome,
the Belgian way!**

Early Bird \$27.50
5pm-7pm



Palm Beach Plaza (Palm Beach) | T: (297) 586 6388 | info@tasteofbelgium.aw | www.tasteofbelgium.aw | www.onedeliciousisland.com

At \$1.50 a pound:

In Georgia, pecan thieves find windfall

KIM SEVERSON

© 2011 New York Times

FORT VALLEY, Ga. — To an enterprising thief, or even a casual dabbler in crime, the fallen pecans that cover thousands of acres of unpatrolled Georgia nut orchards might as well be a carpet of nickels.

Scoop up a pound — 30 nuts or so — and it can be cashed in for as much as \$1.50 at the local buying station. A more-organized criminal might cut a hole in a fence at a nut-cleaning plant and drive away with a couple of thousand dollars' worth of top-quality pecans.

Nut theft has long been a reality here in the nation's pecan belt. It has become such a way of life that a south Georgia rapper, Hawkdogg, even has a song about it: "Crank Dat Pecan." But this season, which began in October and ends in January, the bootleg nut grab appears to be at record levels, growers and the police say. "We've had people go in there stealing pecans just like they're going to a hardware store and taking a hammer and nails," said Duke Lane, owner of Lane's Southern Orchards and president of the Georgia Pecan Growers Association.



Jeanette Ogle, who was caught gathering pecans she said were for a pie on a road near an orchard, with her fiance, Randall Sorrow Jr., outside magistrate court after receiving a warning in Fort Valley, Ga, Dec. Nut theft has long been a reality here in the nation's pecan belt, but this season, which began in October and will end in January, the bootleg nut grab appears to be at record levels, growers and local police say.

(Rich Addicks/The New York Times)

At least 50 people have been caught on his 2,600-acre orchard this year, Lane said.

"If somebody's hungry and they want a handful of nuts, that's one thing," he said. "But this is different. These guys have whole sacks."

To protect themselves, growers have installed security cameras. But since most thefts happen at night, it's hard to identify the culprits. The growers have hired security guards and added fences topped with barbed wire. But the orchards are too large to patrol effectively, and

thieves cut through the chain link almost as soon as it goes up.

Still, pecan thieves are being caught in numbers that are nearly double what they were in 2010.

In Peach County, about a two-hour drive south from Atlanta, more than 30 arrests have been made this season, said Capt. Kenny M. Cameron of the County Sheriff's Office. One person was caught stealing 1,400 pounds of the nuts.

Farther south, in Mitchell County, there have been 37 reports of pecan thefts in the past two months, resulting in 16 arrests. Four were

for felonies, said Joseph K. Mulholland, the district attorney for a five-county region that includes some of Georgia's top pecan orchards.

The price of pecans is high this season, making it particularly lucrative for growers and thieves alike.

"Right now, you're basically picking money off the ground," Mulholland said. Extreme drought and heat have hurt pecan production for Georgia's biggest competitor, Texas, where the crop could be down by as much as 40 percent, according to agricultural extension reports.

Meanwhile, demand for

pecans in China and other countries has been growing. Sixty-five percent of the crop from Georgia's biggest pecan grower goes overseas. Premium growers can get a healthy \$3 a pound these days.

That means prices are up in the casual "yard nut" market, too. In rural Georgia, selling pecans that have fallen from the trees in one's yard is a country version of returning cans and bottles for instant cash.

Nut processors have drive-up buying stations in several farming communities, and it is nearly impossible to tell a bag of legitimate yard nuts from a stolen one.



A worker examines pecans on a conveyer belt in the processing plant at Evans Farms in Fort Valley, Ga.

(Rich Addicks/The New York Times)

Tel: 582-0697 / 583-7484
Schotland str. 70

Extend your Stay at

Quality Apartments

*Studio & Loft Apts.

*Kitchen / Airco / Cable TV

Less than 1 mile from Eagle Beach & 4 large supermarkets.

Feel free to contact or visit us.

Mon - Fri: 8am-7pm. Sat & Sun: 9am-5pm.



BENLO CIGARS

Import & Export • We ship all over the world • Tel.: 5863555

Located in the Arowak Garden, next to Salt & Pepper,
Paparazzi and Tango Restaurant.

We are specialized in premium Cuban Cigars.

Opening hours: Mon. - Sat. 8:30am - 11:00pm

Sunday 9:00am - 11:00pm

Depending on purchase, we have discounts starting from 5% up to 20%.

With purchase of \$20 or more 1 FREE CIGAR

Bring this coupon for your free Cuban Cigar!

Thieves also set up roadside stands or sell to people who act as middle men, gathering small amounts until they have enough to head to the broker.

"Somebody's going to buy that nut no questions asked," said Charles Evans, the state's largest pecan grower, who goes by the nickname Chop. □



The Blue Lobster Restaurant

International cuisine & lobster house



The Holidays are at the door step for the year 2011, for many it this year was a wonderful year full of opportunities and change so much in the business area as on the personal area. For us at the BLUE LOBSTER RESTAURANT 2011 was the year of commencement and with enthusiasm we leave behind three months of hard work and sleepless nights and got ready for a new year full of challenges and with open arms we will receive the hundreds of

customers who are already making reservations to sample our wonderful LOBSTER DISHES. A small cozy and romantic place but with a Big human warmth and homey atmosphere, clients are observing and recommendations for expansion are at the order of the day. The Xmas spirit is here and so much staff and patrons are coming together to wish Aruba and all our locals and tourist alike a

MERRY XMAS AND A HAPPY 2012.

Only 3 weeks have passed since The Blue Lobster open for dinner and already has reached high levels of attendance to the point of having nights when three turnarounds have been archived.

The Blue Lobster is fully committed to high food quality, Good Service and Reasonable Pricing.

The staff and management of the Blue Lobster restaurant looks forward to re-

ceive hundreds of customers on the year 2012 and join its clientele to wish one and all a merry Xmas and a happy 2012.

THE BLUE LOBSTER RESTAURANT FOTO

The staff of The Blue Lobster restaurant has received a nice Xmas Basket from the hands of Mr German Castano and Cheff Sandro Herold, a way of saying Thanks for having contributed dearly to the success of the restaurant which in only three weeks was able

to become the "Talk of the Town" and theme of conversations at the high rise and low rise hotel's pools and beaches.

From right to left standing: German Castano, Owner, Dave Rongen, Carlos riderstap, Heidy, Ana Peres, Sandro Herold, Excecutive cheff.

Seating: Maria Agudelo, Cesar Crozendijk, Alba Gonzalez, Carmen Rodriguez, Missing: Gerald De Mey, Jacobo Briezen. □

At Amazonia Churrascaria

Aruba's Minister of Tourism, Transportation & Labour hosts a private office party



Palm Beach – Over the weekend the island's Minister of Tourism, Transportation & Labour, Otmar Oduber, hosted a private office-party for the members of his staff, at Amazonia Churrascaria.

That week was particularly busy at the ministry with the First Annual Tourism Summit, the Shoco National Awards of Excellence event, and another very special evening honoring a great number of government employees, celebrating long-term careers.



In between state business affairs the minister found time to give thanks to his staff of dedicated individuals, by hosting a party in their honor at Amazonia Churrascaria over delicious food and drinks. Pictured here, staff members and advisers enjoying an evening of leisure, in the bar room of Aruba's Brazilian-style steakhouse, Amazonia Churrascaria. □



American Home Assurance Company is being re-branded as Chartis Insurance

ORANJESTAD - First operations of American Home Assurance company in Aruba started in the year 1940. Previously the Company operated as Senaco, AIU Aruba N. V., Bob Steel Insurance Agency and then as American Home Assurance Company. American Home is fully owned subsidiary of AIG. AIG has decided to incorporate Chartis Insurance as a worldwide Holding Company for its General insurance operations. Recently American Home Assurance Company has re-branded as Chartis d.b.a. American Home Assurance with an intention to incorporate a local Chartis legal entity in early course. At this occasion, American Home also re-branded its volley ball team of S. V. Volvox to Chartis S. V. Volvox. The new uniforms of Chartis S. V. Volvox were baptized by the Minister of Health and Sports Mr.



Richard Visser. On behalf of the Board of the Volvox, Mr. Ruben

Krozendijk thanked Mr. Prakash Gupta for all the great support received



by the team for the last 11 years. Volvox is also very glad that Chartis contin-



ues its support to the team which has achieved many honors for Aruba. □

J.H. YEE'S
珍味 Asian Bistro

LUNCH SPECIALS starting at \$9,95

EARLY BIRD SPECIALS starting at \$14,95 (6-7pm)

HOUSE SPECIALS starting at \$16,95

NOW SERVING SUSHI (lunch and dinner)

Located at South Beach Centre | Palm Beach 55, Aruba | Tel: 586 3888 | Fax: 586 8883

OPEN
Lunch 12 pm-3pm
Dinner 6 pm-11 pm
EVERY DAY

MARRIOTT ARUBA APPOINTS NEW EXECUTIVE CHEF ALEJO GARCIA

PREPARING FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON

PALM BEACH, ARUBA (DECEMBER 19, 2011) – The Aruba Marriott proudly announces the appointment of Executive Sous Chef Alejo Garcia to Executive Chef for the three Aruba Marriott properties.

Alejo joined the Marriott company in 1999 at the Courtyard by Marriott in Buenos Aires as Kitchen assistant and transferred in 2002 to JW Marriott Miami where he worked for a year as Cook to learn the ins and outs of a 5-star kitchen. He continued his journey in 2003 to Marriott Los Suenos Ocean and Golf Resort in Costa Rica, where he worked for 2 years as Sous Chef. After working one year at the JW Marriott Hotel in Quito, Ecuador, Alejo wanted to experience the island lifestyle and transferred in 2006 to Frenchmen's Reef & Morning Star Marriott Beach Resort, in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands as Sous Chef.

The Aruba Marriott welcomed Alejo on 14 November 2008 to our Resort as our Executive Sous Chef.

In the last three years he has grown to be a great leader, shared his passion for food and shown his skills and talents in the kitchen.

Chef Alejo and his team invite you for the holidays to celebrate these joyous days in La Vista restaurant. On December 25th a sumptuous brunch and a fabulous dinner awaits you. The Sunday Christmas brunch offers a wide range of breakfast items and menu items such as the oven roasted turkey, fettuccini alfredo with grilled chicken and home made pizza's. The Christmas brunch is available from 7:00 am – 3:00 pm at \$37.00 per person, kids age 6-12 half price and kids 0-5 eat free. The Christmas dinner buffet starts at 5:30 till 10:30pm and include a festive variety of traditional menu items including the honey ham, grilled salmon, garlic spiked prime rib, baked four cheese pasta and more. The Christmas dinner can be enjoyed at \$54.95. Kids 5-12 half price and 0-5 free.

The Aruba warmly welcomes everyone to La Vista to celebrate the holiday season

Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino boasts 411 guestrooms each with private balconies overlooking cascading waterfalls, a free form swimming pool and tranquil Caribbean waters. Guest exclusivity is attainable on the eighth floor through the Tradewinds Club, a boutique, 'hotel-within-a-hotel' concept that is paired perfectly with the new adults-only pool and lounge area. On property dining options range from light to elegant with seven restaurants and cafes, while entertainment and relaxation can be achieved in the island's largest casino, or in the 6,500 square-foot spa. To obtain more information call the Aruba Marriott Re-



sort & Stellaris Casino at 1.800.228.9290 or visit www.arubamarriott.com or www.tradewindscubaruba.com. Connect with the Aruba

Marriott's official Facebook fan page by visiting www.facebook.com/ArubaMarriott and follow on Twitter @ArubaMarriott. □

Friends that vacation together, come to Aruba!



PALM BEACH – Ken Boynton and Everett Skinner both own a family construction and building businesses back home. Ken and his wife Jan have 3 children and up to now currently have 2 beautiful granddaughters! They look forward to spending time with family when they get home to celebrate Christmas together. They own 2 vacation homes, one at the beach in Connecticut and the others in the mountains in Vermont. This trip to

Aruba with their friends was very enjoyable and relaxing. Everett and Sherry have 4 children and also own their own business in Connecticut. Two of their children are married. One of which was just recently married in November. Their son spent his honeymoon here in Aruba, and snorkeled with Aruba Bob! They highly recommended the trip to their parents! Everett and Sherry have been to Aruba over a dozen times and love it here. They also

look forward to spending time with family for this Christmas season. The two couples decided to get away together for a restful vacation. They expect to return back to Aruba again soon. The 2 couples are also good friends with Kent Gerber from Indiana, who is on the Island for his 26th trip. Kent took the group snorkeling and they had a blast. They all love Aruba and can't wait to return to this one happy island. □

The Gift of Spa for the Holidays

Eagle Beach -- If you are in search of serenity and pampering, get yourself to Indulgence by the Sea Salon located at the Tamarijn Beach Resort or Indulgence by the Sea Spa located at the Divi beach Resort. The Salon and Spa are promoting a new campaign under the slogan: RELAX, REFLECT, REVITALIZE, and REJOICE. The idea is to provide patrons with gift certificates for their loved ones, and as added value, the spa and salon also present the giver with a personal gift. "Give the Gift of Spa, and receive a little something for yourself," says director Angie Martinez, who owns Indulgences by the Sea in Aruba and in St. Martin. She goes on to explain that in our busy and demanding lives we often forget to take care of ourselves. For that reason, during the Giving

Season, the spa and salon rewards clients for loyalty with a simple program: Buy a gift certificate for \$250 and receive \$50 as a personal gift; buy a gift certificate for \$150 and receive \$25 as a personal gift; buy a gift certificate for \$75, and receive \$15 as a personal gift. Gift Cards can be redeemed at Indulgence by the Sea Salon at TAMARIJN Beach Resort & Indulgence by the Sea Spa at Divi Beach resort, against products and services, the offer is valid till December 25th, 2011. But that is not all: Indulgence by the Sea is collaborating this season with several fine retailers on the island. When you spend more than Awg 100 at Kooyman, Divi Links Golf Course & Pro Shop, Flora Market, Fantastic Gardens, Diamonds International,

EQ3, Surprise, Antraco and/or Indulgence by the Sea Spa you will receive a raffle ticket for a \$250 spa gift certificate. Indulgence by the Sea also offers the BEST manicures & pedicures in the Caribbean, and is currently introducing Shellac by CND, a revolutionary nail color which goes on like nail polish, wears like gel and removed in minutes. Shellac allows a 14-day wear with a mirror finish, zero dry time, and no nail damage. The new Shellac nail colors complement luxurious manicures and pedicures which include a Rose Petal Soak, Organic Sugar Exfoliation, a Rose Enzyme Organic Mask, an Aromatherapy Paraffin Dip, and a melt-away-from-it-all massage with deeply hydrating rose oil on arms, hands, lower legs and feet, for the



ultimate in graceful hands and feet treatment so you are ready to dazzle this holiday season. Finally as an added touch, Indulgence by the Sea serves complimentary wine, mimosas, coffee,

and tea to all clients and should you be interested in more information, you may peruse the full menu of services on www.spaaruba.com, or stay connected via FACEBOOK, visiting Indulgence by the Sea. □

Catch your own dinner with Driftwood!

Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: "From the pier to your plate!"



ORANJESTAD - The downtown marina is home of Driftwood Fishing Charters, the successful fishermen of the established seafood restaurant Driftwood in Oranjestad.

Driftwood owner Herby

Merryweather has a love and passion for fishing. A fisherman who knows about fish, what our local waters have to offer, and what the words "fresh seafood" really mean. What Herby catches will be served in his restaurant on the same day. Herby loves to share his fishing passion with the many visitors to the island. His fleet of a 35 ft. Twin Engine Bertram yacht and a 50 ft. Twin Engine Post yacht, appropriately called "Driftwood I and II, is available for charters on a daily basis from 8am to 12 noon and from 1 pm to



Winners of Intl. LUHRS Marina Group Blue Marlin Release Tournament 2009



5pm.
Catch your own dinner
A charter includes: captain, mate, all fishing equipment, bait, sodas and bottled water. On a full day charter sandwiches and snacks are also included. You can call Herby directly at (297) 592 4040 or go to www.driftwoodaruba.com.
Driftwood Restaurant

This authentic Aruban seafood restaurant is located in characteristic downtown Oranjestad. Their extended menu has been jubled by many. Driftwood offers daily specials, as well as a delicious 3-course menu for just \$24.
Charter deep sea fishing rates:
\$400 - 1/2 day

\$760- full day
Rates per boat
Max. 6 people
Driftwood Restaurant
Authentic Aruban Seafood Restaurant; Klipstraat 12, Downtown Oranjestad
Tel: (297) 583 2515
www.driftwoodaruba.com
Opening hours: every day, but Tuesdays from 5pm till 10:30pm. □



In this March 13, 2011, file photo, college football analyst Craig James is seen in Lubbock, Texas. James has been granted time away from ESPN while he considers running for the U.S. Senate in Texas, ESPN said Friday, Dec. 16, 2011.

Associated Press

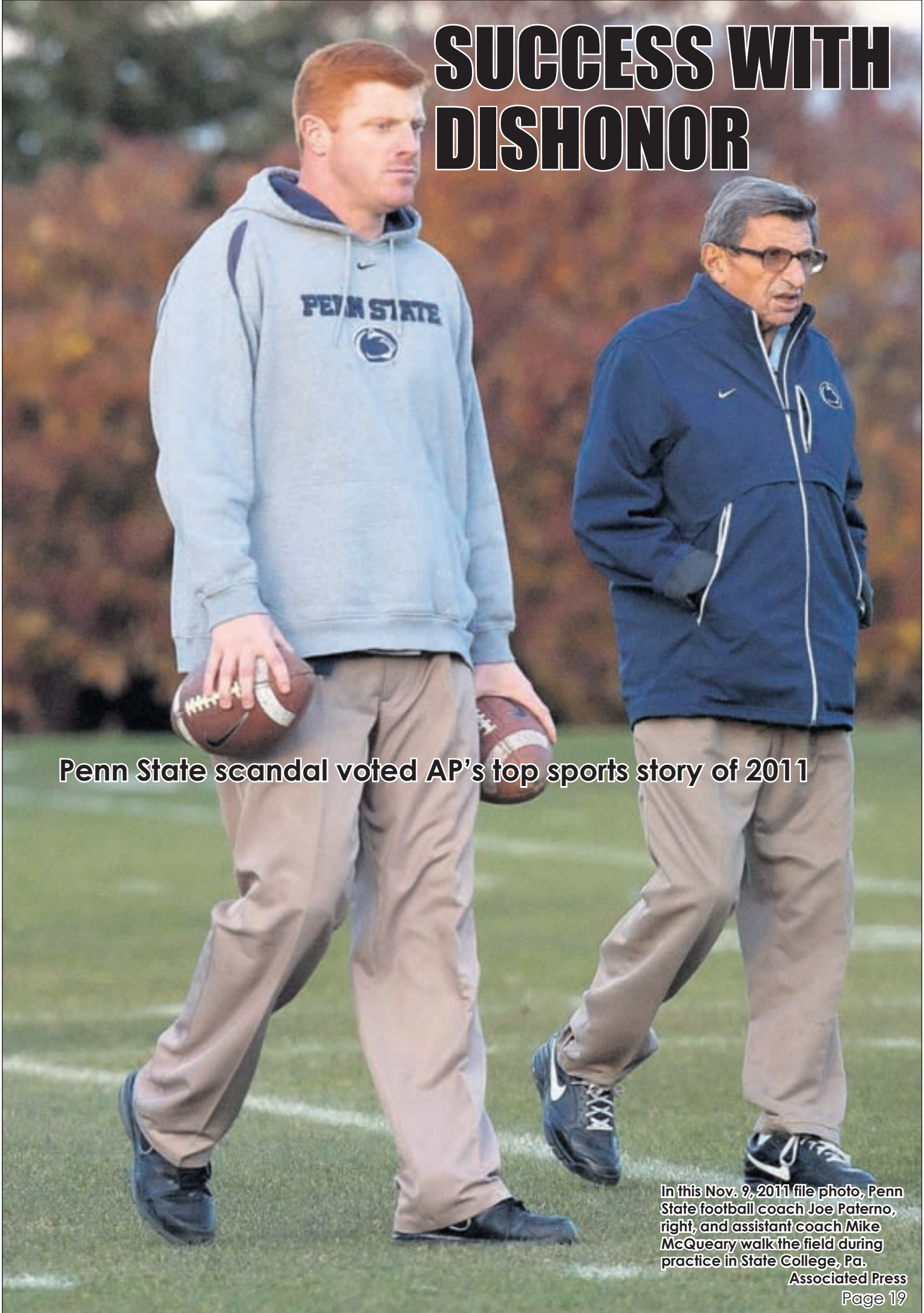
ESPN football analyst Craig James runs for Senate

By JIM VERTUNO

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — ESPN college football analyst Craig James, who starred as a tailback at Southern Methodist University and with the New England Patriots in the 1980s, announced Monday he was running for the U.S. Senate as a Republican from Texas, a GOP fundraiser said.

James, who appears on the cable network's weekly game broadcasts, has been flirting with entering politics for more than year. Republican fundraiser and close friend Roy Bailey told The Associated Press on Monday that James informed him he was running for the 2012 Senate seat and was in the process of dropping off his official candidate papers in Austin. "I think it's great for Texas. Anytime you have someone with Craig's street smarts and business sense and willingness to serve the public, it's a great thing," said Bailey, who added that he would help raise money for James. □

SUCCESS WITH DISHONOR



Penn State scandal voted AP's top sports story of 2011

In this Nov. 9, 2011 file photo, Penn State football coach Joe Paterno, right, and assistant coach Mike McQueary walk the field during practice in State College, Pa.

Associated Press

Page 19

Hirscher wins slalom and takes overall lead

ANDREW DAMPF

AP Sports Writer

ALTA BADIA, Italy (AP) —

Austrian technical specialist Marcel Hirscher won Mon-

day's slalom and overtook Aksel Lund Svindal for the overall World Cup lead, giving the sport's most powerful team hope of winning

Sports Briefs

Venus Williams puts off return to tennis

AUCKLAND, New Zealand (AP) —

Venus Williams has pulled out of January's ASB Classic in New Zealand where she was due to play her first competitive match since August. The 31-year-old Williams is still recovering from the immune system disease Sjogren's syndrome, which can cause fatigue and joint pain.

Williams has played in several exhibition matches recently but organizers of the Auckland tournament beginning Jan. 7



Venus Williams reacts after defeating her sister Serena Williams 6-4, 7-6 during an exhibition tennis match in Medellin, Colombia, Wednesday Nov. 23, 2011.

Associated Press

said she was not yet ready to return to competitive tennis. The seven-time Grand Slam singles champion played in only four tournaments in 2011 and shut down her season after the U.S. Open.

The Australian Open, the first major of the season, begins Jan. 16. □

Keys, Levine get Australian Open wild cards

NORCROSS, Georgia (AP) — Americans Madison Keys and Jesse Levine have earned wildcard berths at the Australian Open by winning the U.S. Tennis Association playoff tournament.

The 16-year-old Keys beat Gail Brodsky 6-3, 6-4 on Sunday to earn a women's wild card, while Levine defeated veteran Robby Ginepri 6-0, 6-2, 6-1 for a men's spot.

Two American and two French players are guaranteed wildcard spots in the Australian Open every year through a reciprocal agreement between the U.S., French and Australian tennis associations.

Fifteen-year-old Ashleigh Barty and Marinko Matosevic won wildcard playoffs in Australia this month to secure spots in the tournament, which begins on Jan. 16.

Two-time Grand Slam winner Lleyton Hewitt, Casey Delacqua and James Duckworth have also received wildcards. □



Austria's Marcel Hirscher competes on his way to win an alpine ski, men's World Cup slalom, in Alta Badia, Italy, Monday, Dec. 19, 2011. Austrian technical specialist Marcel Hirscher held on to his first-run lead to win the second World Cup slalom of his budding career by a large margin Monday.

Associated Press

skiing's biggest prize for the first time in six years.

Having also led after the opening run, Hirscher completed the Gran Risa course in a two-leg combined time of 1 minute, 47.16 seconds. Olympic slalom champion Giuliano Razzoli finished second, a distant 0.56 seconds behind, and Felix Neureuther of Germany was third, 0.60 back.

"Being in the leading position after the first run is hard for anybody, because the whole nation is thinking about you," Hirscher said. "But after a while, I talked to myself and said it was time for full gas and I skied more than 100 percent and it was a big success for me." The 22-year-old Hirscher also won a giant slalom in Beaver Creek, Colorado, earlier this month, and now has five career victories. His only other slalom win came in Val d'Isere, France, last season, but he has a total of nine podium results in the discipline, making him a dominant force in both of the technical events.

Hirscher broke a bone in his left foot just before last season's world championships and was out for several months.

"I was completely focused when I started training again after such a long

break," Hirscher said.

Hirscher celebrated by waving both of his poles above his bright yellow helmet, skiing backward as he glanced at the scoreboard.

Defending overall World Cup champion Ivica Kostelic sat second after the opening run but finished fifth after losing a big chunk of time on the flat finishing section in his second leg as the sun warmed the course and slowed the racers. Svindal failed to qualify for the second run, placing 44th in the opening leg.

Hirscher moved nine points in front of Svindal, with American giant slalom specialist Ted Ligety — who finished 10th — 40 points behind in third.

The last Austrian man to win the overall title was Benjamin Raich in 2005-06, while Nicole Hosp took the women's title in 2006-07.

"At the moment it's not important for me, because it doesn't matter in which position you are at this point in season," Hirscher said.

Hirscher also moved to the top of the slalom standings, with a 15-point lead over Kostelic, who won the opening slalom this season. Among those failing to finish the opening run was Olympic combined cham-

pion Bode Miller.

Likely worn down after a week of downhill training and races, Miller lost control at the second gate in the opening run, spun around backward and had both of his skis pointing straight up into the air when he hit the ground.

After coming to a stop, Miller stood up and stared back up the mountain to see what tripped him up, then skied directly to the personal bus that he travels the circuit in.

The men's circuit now moves to retired Austrian great Hermann Maier's hometown of Flachau for a night slalom Wednesday, before rounding out the year with the annual downhill in Bormio on Dec. 29.

Five more slaloms are scheduled for January, making Hirscher a serious threat for the overall title. □



Penn State saga voted AP sports story of year

By RACHEL COHEN

NEW YORK (AP) — The ouster of one of America's most revered coaches, Penn State's Joe Paterno, after shocking child sex abuse charges against his former assistant was overwhelmingly voted the sports story of the year by members of The Associated Press.

On the morning of Nov. 5, Paterno's Nittany Lions were undefeated in the Big Ten and ranked No. 16 in the country, and the 84-year-old Hall of Famer was renowned as the winningest coach in Division I football, a leader who preached and practiced "Success with Honor." Then came the staggering revelations: the indictment of longtime defensive coordinator Jerry Sandusky for allegedly sexually assaulting eight boys over a 15-year span, perjury charges against two high-ranking school administrators — and a grand jury report that suggested Paterno knew of accusations against Sandusky and did not do enough to pursue them.

Within four days, Penn State's board of trustees had done the once-unthinkable, firing JoePa after 46 seasons as head coach. There were 214 ballots submitted from U.S. news organizations that make up the AP's membership. The voters were asked to rank the top 10 sports stories of the year, with the first-place story getting 10 points, the second-place story receiving nine points, and so on. The Penn State saga received 2,044 points and 172 first-place votes. It was also voted the No. 6 news story for 2011 in the AP's annual poll of U.S. editors and news directors. The No. 2 sports story — labor strife in the NFL and NBA — had 15 first-place votes and 1,345 points. The turmoil that at times seemed to rock college sports on a weekly basis this year was evident in the voting beyond the Penn State selection. Three more of the top 10 stories involved upheaval in the NCAA: conference realignment (No. 4); the Ohio State infractions that



In this Aug. 6, 1999 file photo, Penn State head football coach Joe Paterno, right, poses with his defensive coordinator Jerry Sandusky during Penn State Media Day at State College, Pa. The ouster of one of America's most revered coaches, Penn State's Joe Paterno, after shocking child sex abuse charges against his former assistant was overwhelmingly voted the sports story of the year by members of The Associated Press.
Associated Press

cost Jim Tressel his job (No. 6); and more sex abuse accusations, these involving Syracuse basketball (No. 9). Tiger Woods' humbling return to the public eye was the top story last year. Here are 2011's top 10 stories:

— 1. PENN STATE: Paterno said in a statement Nov. 9, "It is one of the great sorrows of my life. With the benefit of hindsight, I wish I had done more," and that he would retire at the end of the season. It wasn't enough to quell the rising outrage that he didn't go to the police after then-graduate assistant Mike McQueary told him in 2002 about witnessing an apparent assault. By the night of Nov. 9, Paterno was out, and so was Penn State President Graham Spanier. As 2011 comes to a close, athletic director Tim Curley, who was placed on leave, and since-retired university vice president Gary Schultz await trial, and Sandusky faces additional charges. Paterno revealed Nov. 18 he had been diagnosed with a treatable form of lung cancer. The Nittany Lions play Houston in the TicketCity Bowl on Jan. 2.

— 2. NFL/NBA LOCKOUTS: "Millionaires vs. billionaires" was often fans' reaction to the labor woes that struck the NFL and NBA this year. Football's work stoppage

ers 31-25 in February. They kept right on winning into the 2011 season, rolling to a 13-0 start led by play from their quarterback almost as perfect as their record, until an upset loss to the Chiefs.

— 4. CONFERENCE REALIGNMENT: San Diego State in the Big East? Another dizzying round of college conference hopping made a mockery of geography. Texas A&M bolted the Big 12 for the SEC in September — likely ending its more than century-old rivalry with Texas — which set off the dominoes. Missouri followed the Aggies to the SEC. The Big East lost Syracuse and Pittsburgh to the ACC and West Virginia and TCU to the Big 12, then regrouped by adding some

— 6. OHIO STATE: The Buckeyes beat Arkansas 31-26 on Jan. 4 in the Sugar Bowl with five players allowed to take part even though they were suspended for the first five games of the 2011 season for NCAA infractions. Ohio State would soon have far bigger problems. The school learned that month that Jim Tressel, who coached the Buckeyes to their first national title in 34 years, long knew about the transgressions and had violated NCAA rules by not reporting them. On May 30, he finally resigned under pressure. After a 6-6 season, Ohio State replaced Tressel with somebody who's won two national championships: former Florida coach Urban Meyer.

— 7. MAVERICKS WIN: Five years after blowing a series lead in the NBA finals to the Heat, Dallas and Dirk Nowitzki got revenge and redemption against Miami. The Mavs picked up fans around the country by beating the Heat, suddenly everybody's favorite team to hate with the nucleus of LeBron James, Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh. After Dallas won in six games, Dirk finally got his title — while LeBron still seeks his.

— 8. WHELDON DIES: Two-time Indianapolis 500 winner Dan Wheldon was killed Oct. 16 during IndyCar's season finale in Las Vegas in a fiery 15-car crash. The 33-year-old Brit won Indy this year in one of just three starts during the season as he searched for sponsorship. Wheldon was chasing a \$5 million incentive in Las Vegas, and IndyCar is still answering questions about whether the race was excessively dangerous.

— 9. SYRACUSE: Less than two weeks after the Sandusky charges, ESPN reported that two former Syracuse ball boys accused longtime men's basketball assistant coach Bernie Fine of molesting them. Then, on Nov. 27, Fine was fired after the network aired a tape in which a woman it identified as Fine's wife tells one of the men, Bobby Davis, she knew "everything" that was going on. □



In this Oct. 16, 2011 file photo, Drivers crash during a wreck that involved 15 cars during the IndyCar Series' auto race at Las Vegas Motor Speedway in Las Vegas. Driver Dan Wheldon was airlifted to a hospital. Will Power (12), of Australia, is airborne at left.
Associated Press

lasted 4½ months before an agreement was signed Aug. 5; it cost the league just one preseason game. Fans have quickly forgiven the owners and players based on ticket sales and television ratings. Basketball's dragged on for more than five months and wiped out 16 games of the normal 82-game schedule. The fallout won't be clear until the season begins on Christmas.

— 3. PACKERS WIN: Aaron Rodgers and Green Bay are shining and well out of Brett Favre's shadow. The injury-ravaged Packers barely made the playoffs as a No. 6 seed last season, then won three road games to reach the Super Bowl, where they beat the Pittsburgh Steel-

hardly Eastern schools: Boise State, San Diego State, Houston, SMU.

— 5. CARDINALS WIN: St. Louis trailed in the wildcard race by 10½ games in late August but rallied to clinch a playoff berth on the season's final day. The Cardinals' comeback in the World Series might have been even more remarkable. They were twice down to their final strike in Game 6 against the Texas Rangers, who were up by two runs in the ninth and 10th innings. St. Louis won it on David Freese's home run in the 11th before clinching the championship in Game 7. Manager Tony La Russa retired after the victory parade.

NFL expected to discuss helmet-to-helmet hits

By BARRY WILNER
EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J.
(AP) — The NFL is expected to look at expanding the ban on launching and helmet hits.

Atlanta Falcons President Rich McKay, the co-chairman of the league's competition committee, believes it will be a topic for his group during the offseason, and changes could be presented to the owners next spring.

"I think the launch will be discussed more and more and eventually we will see helmet hits modified in the open field," McKay said.

The competition committee recommends rules changes to the owners, who then vote on them at the annual March meetings. McKay's committee was influential in getting outlawed the technique of launching — when a player leaves his feet and leads with his head — against defenseless players.

McKay says the idea of potentially banning launching altogether was discussed last year.

"Coaches felt there were too many circumstances



In this Dec. 8, 2011, file photo, Cleveland Browns guard Jason Pinkston (62) and wide receiver Greg Little (15) check on quarterback Colt McCoy (12) after he was hit by Pittsburgh Steelers outside linebacker James Harrison in the fourth quarter of an NFL football game in Pittsburgh.

Associated Press

es where players could be perceived as doing it and were not really," he said. "It is a big step, not something I expect membership gets comfortable with over a year's time." Flagrant helmet hits have been a high-profile top-

ic all season since the league banned launching in March.

A 15-yard penalty is enforced for anyone who leaves both feet before contact to spring forward and upward into an opponent and delivers a

blow to the helmet with any part of his helmet. Such tackles also are subject to fines, ejections and suspensions.

McKay emphasized that Steelers linebacker James Harrison's hit on Browns quarterback Colt McCoy on Dec. 8 is not the catalyst for further discussions. Harrison became the first player suspended for such a hit under the NFL's new guidelines, and will miss Pittsburgh's game at San Francisco on Monday night.

"I don't like the fact one play would drive the discussion more than a need to do it for a bigger reason: a lot of plays that are putting players at risk," McKay said.

"Our game has taken some real steps in a safety direction and we see, culturally, some modifications.

We need to continue in that direction."

McKay said game officials have told him they are seeing fewer hits with the target areas the head or neck, and more tacklers are leading with their shoulders.

He said that's significant because it's not only offensive players who are in danger when an illegal hit is made.

"When we are trying to deal with an issue like the launch, we are trying to protect the runner and the hitter," he said. "Some hits, a defensive player is leading with his head and not using his arms and really is exposing himself to injury as a flagrant foul is committed."

Defenseless players cannot be hit in the head or neck area with the helmet, facemask, forearm or shoulder.

The definition of such players now includes those throwing a pass; attempting or completing a catch without having time to ward off or avoid contact; a runner whose forward progress has been stopped by a tackler; kick-off or punt returners while the ball is in the air; kickers or punters during a kick or a return; a quarterback during a change of possession; and a player who receives a blindside block from a blocker moving toward his own end zone. □



In this file photo taken April 7, 2010, Ernie Els, and Retief Goosen, right both of South Africa during a practice round at the Masters golf tournament in Augusta, Ga. Els and Retief Goosen enter the 2012 season without any assurances of playing in the Masters. The field for the Masters took shape Monday, Dec. 19, 2011, after the final official week of golf tournaments around the world.

Associated Press

Masters field already over 90

By DOUG FERGUSON
JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP)

— Ernie Els and Retief Goosen enter the 2012 season without any assurances of playing in the Masters.

The field for the Masters took shape Monday after the final official week of golf tournaments around the world. Among the criteria for an invitation is to be among the top 50 in the world ranking at the end of the season.

Els, a three-time major champion who has suffered plenty of heartaches at Augusta National, fell to No. 56 in the final ranking. Els has been eligible for the Masters every year since his debut in 1994. Goosen, a two-time U.S. Open champion, is at No. 53.

Jim Furyk narrowly claimed

a spot in the Masters, to be played April 5-8, when he finished at No. 50. Furyk began the year at No. 5 in the world.

Others who got into the Masters through the world ranking were Ian Poulter, Paul Casey, Alvaro Quiros, K.T. Kim, Simon Dyson, Sangmoon Bae, Rickie Fowler, Francesco Molinari, Miguel Angel Jimenez and Gonzalo Fernandez-Castano.

Els and Goosen still can get in by winning a PGA Tour event before the Masters (except those tournaments held opposite World Golf Championships),

or by getting into the top 50 in the world ranking published the week before the Masters.

Others who have yet to qualify include Ryo Ishi-

kawa (No. 51), Ben Crane (No. 54), Ryan Moore (No. 57), Matteo Manassero (No. 58) and Robert Allenby (No. 59). Further down the ranking are Anthony Kim (No. 75) and Camilo Villegas (No. 89).

The field for the 77th Masters is at least 91 players, depending on how many former champions choose to compete.

The Masters has the smallest field of the four majors, and the club prefers that no more than 100 players tee it up.

A year ago, the field going into the new season also was at 91 players, and there were 99 players in the final field. The last time the Masters field topped 100 players was in 1966, when there were 103 competitors. □

1 FREE DRAFT

PREMIUM BEER
Balashi
BREWED IN ARUBA

WITH THE PURCHASE OF ANY SANDWICH AND FRENCH FRIES OR ONION RINGS

OPEN DAILY - 12 NOON TO 10 ISH

LOCATED BEHIND SEÑOR FROGS, ACROSS FROM THE RADISSON HOTEL

FREE DELIVERY OVER \$40
FOR HI AND LOW RISE HOTEL DISTRICT - INCLUDING THE BEACH!



Burgers, Fries... & More!

TEL
5863904

Blackhawks coach gets 600th NHL victory

CHICAGO (AP) — Chicago coach Joel Quenneville became the 10th coach in NHL history to earn 600 victories as the Blackhawks beat the Calgary Flames 4-2 on Sunday for their fifth straight win.

Chicago also vaulted past Minnesota into first place in the NHL standings with a league-leading 46 points.

The Blackhawks are 7-0-1 in their last eight games.

Marian Hossa, Steve Montador, Niklas Hjalmarsson and Patrick Kane scored for the Blackhawks, while Calgary got scores from Olli Jokinen and Curtis Glencross.

Ray Emery, who has taken over for struggling No. 1 goalie Corey Crawford, won for the fifth straight game while improving to 9-1-2 overall.

*Panthers 3, Hurricanes 2

In Sunrise, Florida, Kris Versteeg scored 3:08 into overtime to give Florida a victory over Carolina.

Stephen Weiss' shot from in front was blocked, but Versteeg found the loose puck and swept it in from the left side of the crease for his team-leading 16th goal of the season.

Sean Bergenheim and Jason Garrison also scored for Florida, and Jose Theodore made 24 saves.

The Panthers have earned at least one point in eight straight home games.

Tim Gleason and Chad LaRose had goals for the Hurricanes, who have lost 10 of 12.

*Blues 6, Blue Jackets 4

In St. Louis, Jason Arnott triggered a four-goal, third-period rally with the tiebreaking goal to lead the Blues.

St. Louis won for the fifth

time in six games and improved to 13-3-1 at home, matching Detroit for the most home wins.

The Blues are also 13-2-4 under new coach Ken Hitchcock, who took over for the fired Davis Payne on Nov. 6.

Alex Steen, Alex Pietrangolo and Patrik Berglund also scored in the third period for St. Louis, which trailed 3-2 after two. T.J. Oshie and Kevin Shattenkirk added goals for the Blues.

Derek Dorsett and Derek MacKenzie also scored for the Blue Jackets, who lost for the fifth time in six games. □



Chicago Blackhawks coach Joel Quenneville yells to his team during the first period of an NHL hockey game against the Phoenix Coyotes in Chicago on Tuesday, Nov. 29, 2011.

Associated Press

A Tropical Oasis in Aruba

Welcome-Bambini!



www.paraderapark.com

HIGH QUALITY AT AN AFFORDABLE PRICE



4-24HD Tv's and 2 projectors for all of your sporting needs

BUSTER'S

SPORTS BAR AND GRILL
MONDAY - FRIDAY FROM 2PM - 7PM

LOCO FOR LOCO
Late Night

HAPPY HOUR \$3 selected Beer
\$4 Mixed House Drinks
Full kitchen open late

3rd ANNUAL Boo Bash
with CASH Prizes

OPEN MONDAY - FRIDAY 2:00P.M. / SATURDAY - SUNDAY 12P.M. open early for FOOTBALL MATCHES

Palm Beach 155 South Beach Center
Tel: (791) 992-5884 Email: bustersaruba@aol.com

Personal health:

Supportive steps after a sexual assault

JANE E. BRODY

© 2011 New York Times

Do you know what to do if you or someone close to you becomes the victim of a sexual assault? A national survey released last week by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention indicated that sexual assaults are far more common than previously believed, with nearly one woman in five reporting that she had been the victim of rape or attempted rape.

Ideally, anyone who has been forced into a sexual act should be seen within 24 hours at a hospital emergency room where a specially trained team provides medical care and counseling, collects high-quality forensic evidence and supports often terrified victims who may – or may not – choose to pursue legal action.

Unless you already know the best place to go, call a rape crisis hot line, regardless of the nature of the assault and even if the attack occurred days or weeks earlier. There's a hot line in every community, according to Dr. Judith A. Linden, an emergency physician at Boston University School of Medicine, where she treats victims and trains medical personnel how to be sensitive and thorough in examining people who have been sexually assaulted.

You can find the nearest rape crisis treatment center, as well as free confidential information, sup-



There are many centers, which should be the first stop for victims of sexual assault, that offer proper care and increase the likelihood that their attackers are punished.
(Yvetta Fedorova/The New York Times)

port and referrals, by contacting the National Sexual Assault Hotline at (800) 656-HOPE (4673), or online at www.rainn.org, the website of the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network. Throughout the United States, mainly in metropolitan areas, there are about 650 centers at which a sexual assault nurse examiner or sexual assault response team provides services that not only offer proper care of victims but also increase the "likelihood that charges are filed and successfully prosecuted," Linden wrote recently in The New England Journal of Medicine. Her article was intended to

help doctors who may not have received specialized training perform a proper examination that can minimize trauma for victims of sexual assault and increase the likelihood that perpetrators will be apprehended.

Whether the assailant was a stranger or, as occurs in 80 percent of cases, an acquaintance or relative, there are likely to be prior and future victims. On average, Linden said in an interview, sexual predators commit seven offenses before they are caught and imprisoned.

PRESERVING EVIDENCE

The goal, then, is to get these criminals off the streets as quickly as possible, which can happen only if good forensic examinations are done and victims decide to file charges. "Unfortunately, it can take two years for a case to move through the legal process," said Rebecca Campbell, a psychologist at Michigan State University who studies sexual assault. During that time, victims may have to tell their stories over and over again, which can prevent them from putting the trauma behind them and getting on with their lives.

It is entirely up to the victim of a sexual assault whether to report it to the police, which can be done weeks or even months after the attack. Even if she thinks at the time that she wants only medical help and time

to heal, she might change her mind later. Should that happen, the National Center for the Victims of Crime urges a course of action that best preserves evidence that could lead to apprehension and conviction of the assailant.

The center advises that before evidence collection by a trained professional, victims should not use the restroom; shower, bathe or douche; brush their teeth or gargle; brush or comb their hair; eat or drink anything; clean up the crime scene, or throw away clothes worn during the attack.

But, Linden said, "there's the ideal, and there's reality." In one case, she said, even after a woman who was orally assaulted had vomited, brushed her teeth and drunk something, "good DNA evidence that led to the perpetrator was obtained by swabbing behind her ears."

In another case, the doctor obtained DNA from a woman's breast, where the attacker had licked her. As soon as possible after an attack, victims are advised to write down everything they remember about it: the circumstances under which it occurred; the appearance, special odor or other characteristics of the assailant (like a limp or a lisp, evidence of intoxication or words spoken); and the nature of the attack and whether the assailant used a weapon or verbal threat. □

Opting to track, not treat, early prostate cancer

LAURAN NEERGAARD

AP Medical Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — John Shoemaker visited six doctors in his quest to find the best treatment for his early stage prostate cancer — and only the last one offered what made the most sense to the California man: Keep a close watch on the tumor and treat only if it starts to grow.

Very few men choose this active surveillance option. Yet Shoemaker is one of more than 100,000 American men a year deemed candidates for it by a government panel.

That is because their prostate cancer carries such a low risk of morphing into the kind that could kill.

The risk for them is so low, in fact, that specialists convened recently by the National Institutes of Health say it is time to strip the name "cancer" off these small, lazy tumors.

In the meantime, the panel wants more of those men offered the option of delaying treatment until regular check-ups show it is really needed. That endorsement promises to fuel efforts by the Prostate Cancer Foundation and a few other groups to spread the word to the newly diagnosed. □



HAPPY HOUR

Daily 5 - 6pm

Special prices on
Balashi & Mojito's

J. E. Irausquin Blvd 79 at De Palm Pier • (297) 586 2233 • www.bugaloe.com • info@bugaloe.com • Open daily: 9am - 12am



A device attempts to elevate the iPad's keyboard

RACHEL METZ

AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

Even if you love the iPad, you're probably not keen to write your next novel using its on-screen virtual keyboard. You may not be thrilled to type up a lengthy email with it, either.

Steve Isaac felt the same way. A Seattle-based software designer who worked on an early tablet at computing startup Go in the 1990s, Isaac was delighted when the iPad came out last year. He loved its svelteness, battery life and wireless connectivity.

"The iPad was amazing," he says. "It just did everything super, super well."

Well, almost everything. Though its touch-screen keyboard was way ahead of what he'd seen on past tablets, he felt it still wasn't great for typing. And wireless keyboards that work via Bluetooth seemed too bulky.

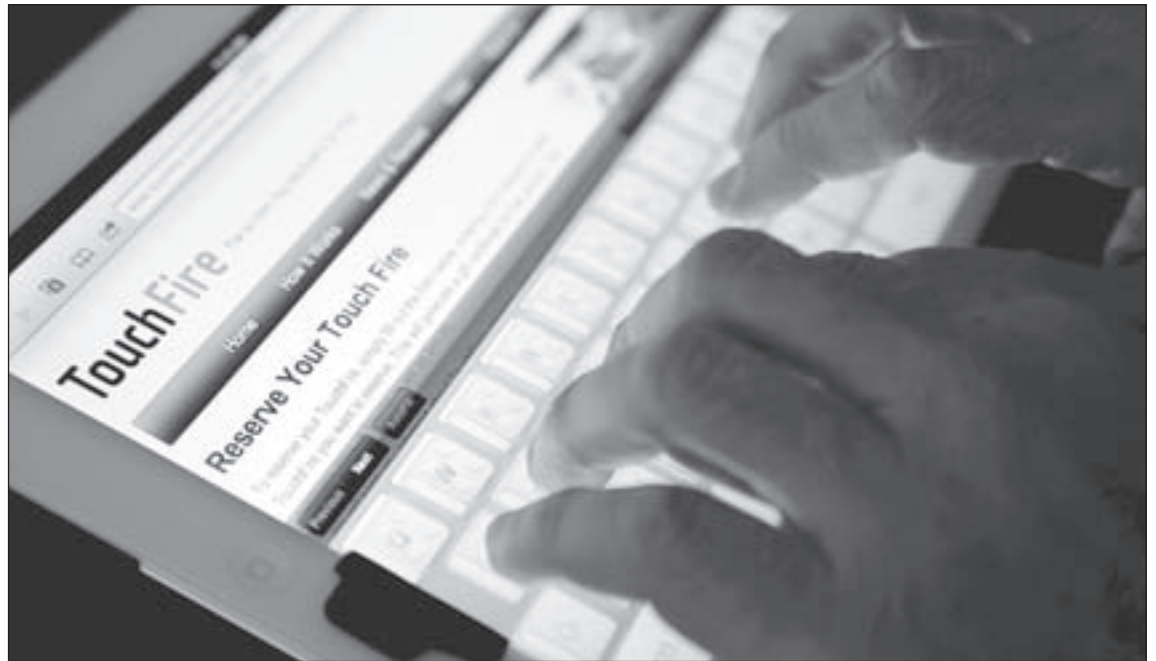
So Isaac got to work on a way to make the iPad easier to type on — a stretchy silicone keyboard called the TouchFire that sits atop the tablet's on-screen keyboard when the device is turned on its side.

Isaac isn't unique in coming up with this type of device, but his invention has garnered an intense amount of support through Kickstarter — a website where entrepreneurs and artists solicit funding for their projects and often give rewards in exchange, such as a limited-edition poster or first version of a product. In Isaac's case, he turned to the site to raise money to turn his prototype into a real device, offering the first run of TouchFires to Kickstarter backers. His ef-

fort raised \$201,400 by the time it ended last week. That was more than 20 times the \$10,000 that he and his business partner had hoped to snag.

The TouchFire's birth as a consumer product shows the growing importance of sites such as Kickstarter. They offer a new way to finance bright ideas and usher them to the masses. Kickstarter visitors can search through a bevy of proposals for everything from graphic novels to consumer electronics, coming from creators who must meet their stated funding goal in a specified period of time in order to actually use the money.

About 45 percent of the projects meet or exceed



In this Dec. 15, 2011 photo, Steven Isaac, CEO of TouchFire, types on his iPad using his first product, a silicone overlay that goes on top of the device's virtual keyboard and allows typing that feels like physical keys, is shown in Seattle. Development of the product was funded with a Kickstarter.com campaign. Associated Press.



Steven Isaac, left, CEO of TouchFire and Brad Melmon, right, director of product development, pose for a photo, Thursday, Dec. 15, 2011, in Melmon's Seattle design studio. Their first product, a silicone overlay that goes on top of the virtual keyboard of an Apple iPad and allows typing that feels like a physical keyboard, was funded with a Kickstarter.com campaign.

Associated Press

their goals, Kickstarter said. This year, site visitors pledged about \$79 million to projects that either succeeded, including Isaac's, or were still in the process of soliciting funds.

Not long after the iPad came out in April 2010, Isaac started fashioning prototypes by cutting up transparent silicone laptop keyboard covers (the kind

you use to protect a laptop's keyboard from dirt) and thin sheets of silicone. He had a number of stipulations for the TouchFire: It should somehow work with the iPad's existing on-screen keyboard and have springy "keys" that you could actually feel. It had to be small, light and unobtrusive. It needed to respond to your finger taps, but, as

on a hardware keyboard, be insensitive enough that you could rest your fingers on the keys without triggering the typing of random letters.

Last September, he connected with Brad Melmon, an industrial designer who was also based in Seattle. The duo refined Isaac's original idea and created the TouchFire company together.

A TouchFire prototype Isaac recently brought to The Associated Press' San Francisco office looked deceptively simple. On the surface, it appeared to be just a flexible keyboard cover with some rigid plastic on the sides.

But a closer look revealed small bumps on the underside of the keypad's silicone keys — bumps that provide typing fingers with the proper amount of resistance. Magnets on the sides and the bottom adhere it to the magnetic portions of the face of the iPad

2, allowing it to sit right on top of the on-screen virtual keyboard without sliding around. If you use the original iPad, a non-slip layer on the bottom of the TouchFire helps keep it in place. Typing with it was fairly comfortable, though it would take some getting used to its squishy feel. Not everyone is convinced, though, of the need for the new product. Gartner Research analyst Ken Dulaney is skeptical that the TouchFire will appeal to the masses, saying it doesn't really seem different from the scads of wireless keyboards already available for the tablet.

"I can tell you, you just need to go down the Apple Store to see how littered the market is for keyboards for iPads," he says.

Indeed, there are tons of options available to iPad users, from cases with built-in keyboards to stand-alone keyboards that sit next to the iPad. □

US stocks drop; Big banks fall hard

MATTHEW CRAFT
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The stock market took a late afternoon fall after European Union finance ministers failed to come up with the full amount of money pledged for a bailout fund. Banks led the way down Monday. Morgan Stanley dropped 5.5 percent and Bank of America Corp. sank 4 percent, the biggest fall in the Dow Jones Industrial average.

"If Europe is going to be bring us down it's going to come through the financial firms," said J.J. Kinahan, chief derivatives strategist at TD Ameritrade.

The Dow lost 100.13 points, or 0.8 percent to close at 11,766.26.

The average lost 55 points in the last hour of trading as reports emerged that the EU finance ministers couldn't drum up the full 200 billion euros (\$261 billion) in new money to the International Monetary Fund.

European leaders had pledged the money for a special IMF fund for struggling European countries at a summit meeting less than two weeks ago.

Cautious comments from the head of the European Central Bank also helped push stocks lower. The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 14.31 points, or 1.2 percent, to 1,205.35. The Nasdaq composite index fell 32.19

points, or 1.3 percent, to 2,523.14.

Mario Draghi, the ECB president, said Monday that the central bank was looking for ways to keep the Eurozone's bailout fund working even if credit rating agencies strip France of its AAA grade. The bailout fund depends on the top ratings of France, Germany and the

sentiment index added two points to 21 in December. Any reading below 50 still reflects a negative outlook. Among companies making large moves Monday:

— Winn-Dixie soared 70 percent. The supermarket chain is being sold to Bi-Lo LLC, another supermarket operator with stores in the Southern U.S., in a deal val-



Men walk past an electronic stock board of a securities firm in Tokyo Monday, Dec. 19, 2011. World stocks began the week with a jolt Monday as the death of North Korea's absolute ruler, Kim Jong Il, added to the uncertainties clouding the outlook for financial markets. Japan's Nikkei 225 index dropped 1.3 percent to 8,296.12.

(AP Photo/Hiro Komae)

countries that contribute to it. Draghi also restated his view that large-scale government bond purchases were outside the central bank's responsibility.

In the U.S., a gauge of sentiment among builders inched up to its highest level since May 2010. The National Association of Home Builders/Wells Fargo builder

ued at \$560 million.

— Cablevision Systems Corp. rose 2 percent after an analyst from Citibank said a recent drop in the company's stock seemed "way overdone." The stock has lost 27 percent from the end of October through last Friday following the unexpected resignation of its chief operating officer. □

AT&T agrees to drop bid for T-Mobile



This March 20, 2011 file photo combo, shows the logos of the communications companies AT&T and Deutsche Telekom. AT&T on Monday, Dec. 19, 2011 said that it is ending its \$39 billion bid to buy T-Mobile USA after facing fierce government objections. AT&T's purchase of T-Mobile from Deutsche Telekom of Germany would have made it the largest cellphone company in the U.S.

(AP Photo)

RACHEL METZ
RYAN NAKASHIMA
AP Business Writers

LOS ANGELES (AP) — AT&T Inc. is bowing out of its \$39 billion bid to buy smaller wireless provider T-Mobile USA after the U.S. government tried to block the deal over concerns it would raise prices, reduce innovation and give customers fewer choices.

Monday's announcement came as little surprise after the Justice Department sued to block the merger on Aug. 31.

The deal looked further in jeopardy when the Federal Communications Commission's chairman also came out against it. The companies withdrew their FCC application last month.

Bernstein analyst Craig Moffett said the announcement was "a bit of an anticlimax." "This is like receiving the divorce papers for a couple that's been separated for years," he said. AT&T's purchase of T-Mobile from Deutsche Telekom of Germany, announced in March, would have made it the largest cellphone company in the U.S. T-Mobile is currently the fourth-largest. AT&T, the nation's second-largest wireless carrier behind Verizon Wireless, will now have to pay Deutsche Telekom \$3 billion in cash as a breakup fee and give it about \$1 billion worth of airwaves, known as spectrum, that AT&T doesn't need for the continued rollout of its high-speed "4G" network. □

NEED CASH TODAY?

PAWN OR SELL YOUR GOLD

14 kt = AWG 40!
18 kt = AWG 50!
24 kt = AWG 68!

ALWAYS THE HIGHEST PRICE!



ORANJESTAD WERFSTRAAT 7 LOK. 12 TEL 588 4141 ☎ SAN NICOLAS B. V/D VEEN ZEPPENFELDSTRAAT 14 TEL 584 4141

EU fails to reach €200 billion IMF loan target

GABRIELE STEINHAUSER

AP Business Writers

BRUSSELS (AP) — European Union finance ministers have come up €50 billion (\$65.19 billion) short of their goal of providing the International Monetary Fund with €200 billion (\$260.78 billion) to help heavily indebted nations avoid default. The eurozone will provide an extra €150 billion to the IMF through bilateral loans, Jean-Claude Juncker, the prime minister of Luxembourg, who also chairs the meetings of the currency union's finance ministers, said in a statement Monday. Greece, Ireland and Portugal, which have received multibillion euro

"We welcome the EU Finance Ministers' support for a substantial increase in the IMF's resources, as we work to strengthen our capacity to fulfill our systemic responsibilities to our global membership," a spokesperson said in a statement.

The failure to come up with the full amount that had been indicated at a summit of EU leaders just 10 days ago signals further rifts within the 27-country EU. At the summit, the 17 eurozone countries also agreed to set up a new treaty to create tighter fiscal rules for the currency union, which has been rocked by a debt crisis for the past two years. The new accord was made

has always been willing to consider further resources for the IMF, but for its global role and as part of a global agreement," the office of U.K. treasury chief George Osborne said in a statement.

The extra IMF loans are meant to be channeled into a special fund that will invest alongside the eurozone's own bailout fund — the European Financial Stability Facility. The eurozone hopes that its own loans, which will come via national central banks, will encourage other non-European countries to also support Europe via the IMF.

The eurozone is desperate for outside investors, be-



A security guard drives away journalists who try to film former IMF head Dominique Strauss-Kahn after his arrival at an economy conference organized by Chinese Internet company Netease in Beijing, China, Monday, Dec. 19, 2011. Strauss-Kahn began his return to public life Monday with a speech at a business conference in Beijing after the scandal earlier this year in New York over a sexual assault accusation.

(AP Photo/Andy Wong)

bailouts, won't have to contribute to the IMF loans. Of the non-euro countries, only Denmark, Poland, the Czech Republic and Sweden will also send extra money to the Washington-based fund, Juncker said, without giving specific amounts. Poland had previously said it would provide around €6 billion, while Denmark has promised €5.4 billion — underlining that the €200 billion target will be missed. The IMF welcomed the money late Monday.

necessary after the United Kingdom blocked changes to the existing EU Treaty. Britain, the largest economy among the 10 non-euro countries in the EU, also declined to contribute to the €200 billion IMF loan target. Its share would have amounted to some €30 billion. Instead, London signaled that it may provide more resources to the IMF through the Group of 20 framework, which most likely wouldn't be earmarked for the eurozone. "The U.K.

cause the €440 billion EFSF is seen as way too small to save large economies like Italy and Spain. The EFSF has already committed some €40 billion to Ireland and Portugal and may have to take on more than €100 billion for a second bailout for Greece. At the same time, the fund's ability to raise rescue money cheaply on financial markets is threatened by potential downgrades for several eurozone states that guarantee its lending. □



A U.S. arbiter for trade disputes is delaying a ruling on Eastman Kodak Co.'s high-stakes patent-infringement claim against smartphone makers Apple Inc. and Research in Motion Ltd.

Kodak ruling delayed amid cash worries

BEN DOBBIN

AP Business Writer

ROCHESTER, New York (AP) — A U.S. arbiter for trade disputes is delaying a ruling on Eastman Kodak Co.'s high-stakes patent-infringement claim against smartphone makers Apple Inc. and Research in Motion Ltd.

The embattled photography pioneer is trying to negotiate a licensing deal it estimates could be worth up to \$1 billion. An administrative judge overseeing the two-year dispute at the U.S. International Trade Commission set a new target date of Sept. 21, 2012. The commission in Washington, D.C., had previously expected to issue a final decision by Dec. 30. A favorable ruling would be a boon to Kodak. Pummeled by Wall Street over its dwindling cash reserves — and its stumbling attempts to reinvent itself as a profitable player in digital imaging and printing — the company warned last month it could run out of cash in a year if it doesn't raise new financing or sell assets.

Since July, Kodak has been hawking 1,100 digital-imaging patents that many financial analysts think might fetch \$2 billion to \$3 billion.

The Wall Street Journal, quoting unidentified people familiar with the matter, reported Monday that Kodak is running into hurdles selling those patents and borrowing more money. Would-be buyers are nervous about buying assets from a company at risk of filing for bankruptcy protection, and hedge funds are offering less than the \$900 million in financing Kodak initially expected, the newspaper said.

Kodak shares sank 16 cents, or 19.9 percent, to close at 67 cents Monday. Shares are down 88 percent in 2011.

Still, Kodak maintains it's making progress on both fronts. "We have received several financing proposals, including from second-lien bondholders, and we have a very active and robust bidding process for the IP (intellectual property) portfolio," spokesman Gerard Meuchner said Monday.

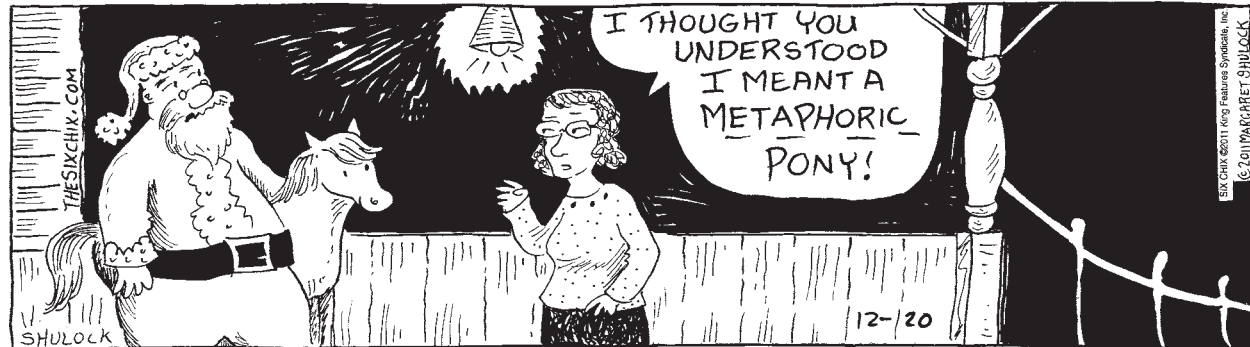
Meanwhile, the nine-month extension in the ITC patent case will allow Judge Thomas Pender to examine new expert testimony from RIM about how its BlackBerry products don't infringe on Kodak patents and address legal issues raised by Kodak.

Calls to RIM, of Waterloo, Canada, and iPhone maker Apple, of Cupertino, Calif., were not immediately returned. Kodak said the extension was "an appropriate amount of time." □

Mutts



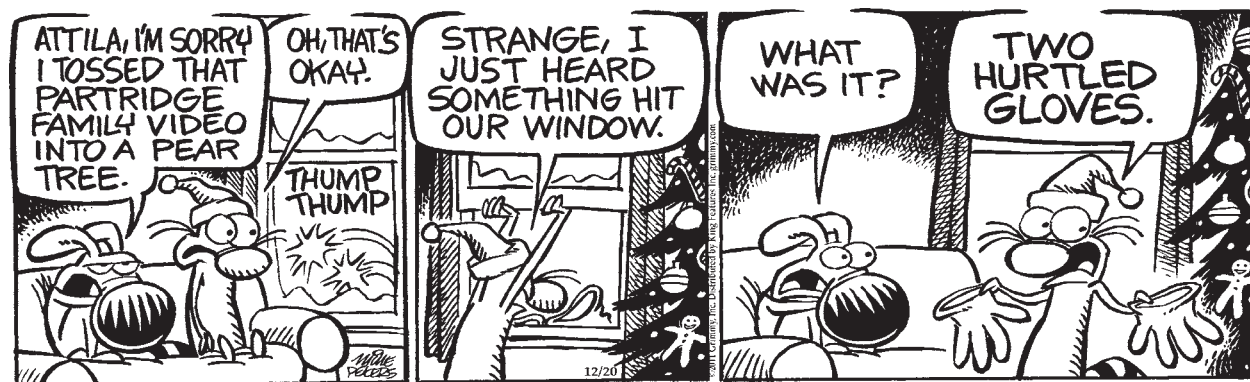
6 Chix



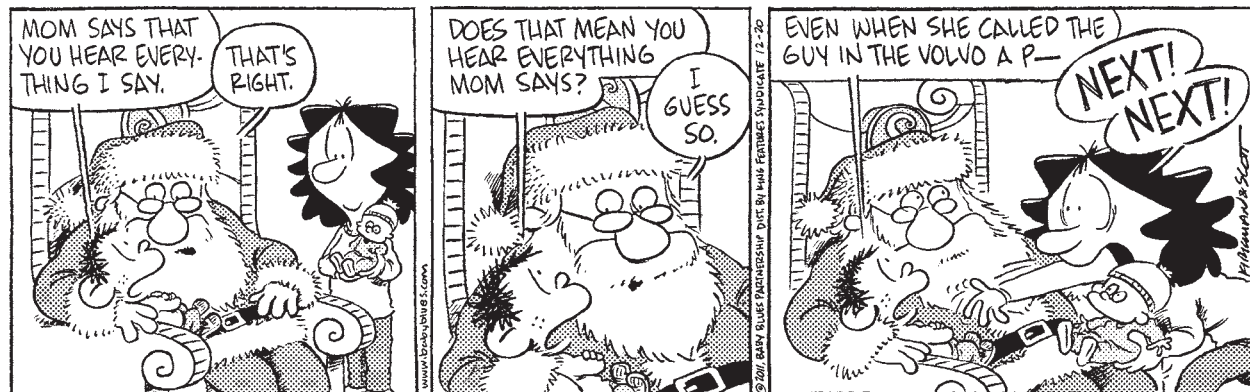
Blondie



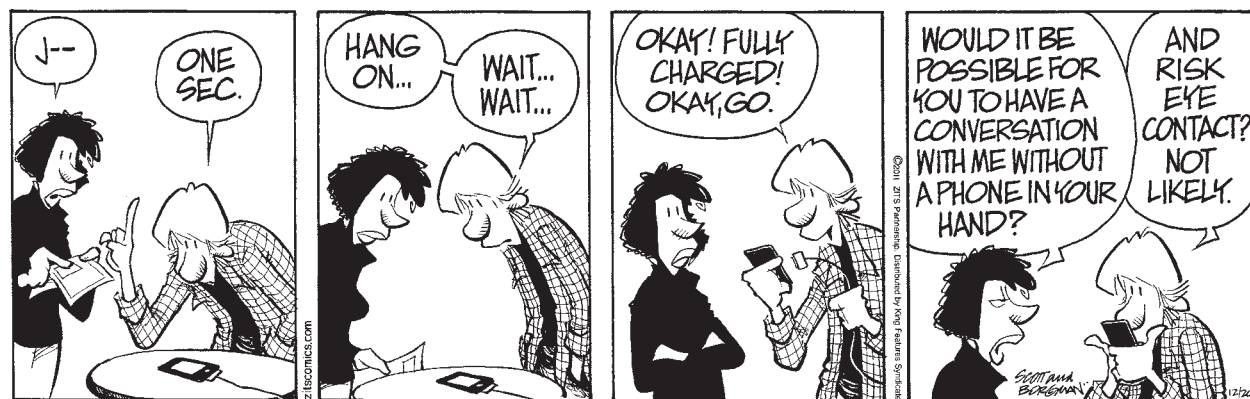
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

	9			3			6	
2								9
	1		4		2		5	
		3		4		2		
7								5
		8		5		1		
	2		5		7		4	
8								1
	7			2			8	

Difficulty Level ★★

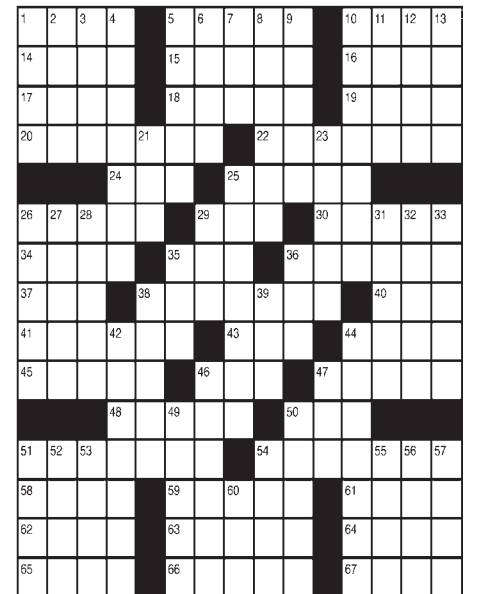
12/20

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

3	2	9	8	6	7	4	1	5
1	8	6	4	9	5	2	3	7
4	5	7	3	1	2	6	8	9
7	1	5	9	2	3	8	6	4
8	3	2	7	4	6	5	9	1
9	6	4	5	8	1	7	2	3
6	7	8	1	3	4	9	5	2
2	4	3	6	5	9	1	7	8
5	9	1	2	7	8	3	4	6

ACROSS

- 1 Take a break
- 5 ___ from; besides
- 10 Short letter
- 14 Skunk's defense
- 15 Sled racer
- 16 ___ though; albeit
- 17 Ten-cent coin
- 18 Feel about blindly
- 19 Fix
- 20 Outstanding
- 22 Climbs
- 24 Falsehood
- 25 Bonet & others
- 26 Steer clear of
- 29 ___ for the course; usual
- 30 Calls using an old phone
- 34 MDs, familiarly
- 35 Upper limb
- 36 Give; grant
- 37 Perform
- 38 Tiny bit of rain
- 40 Bartender's cubes
- 41 Of the Celts
- 43 ___ to lunch; distracted
- 44 ___ in; wearing
- 45 Singer/pianist ___ John
- 46 Swamp
- 47 Book spine info
- 48 Stolen
- 50 Facial twitch
- 51 Foolish talk
- 54 King or queen
- 58 ___ jacket; buoyant vest
- 59 Biblical tower
- 61 Surrealist Salvador ___
- 62 Actor Sharif
- 63 Ring-shaped island
- 64 Very eager
- 65 Actor ___ Grant
- 66 Outscores
- 67 Clockmaker ___ Thomas
- DOWN
- 1 Drape holders
- 36 Wager



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

12/20/11

Monday's Puzzle Solved

DUST	HABIT	AROW
INTO	ELUDE	RENE
ADAM	RELAXATION	
LOG	HERB	MIDST
GHOSH	YES	
THEORY	RENTER	
AARON	BROAD	YAM
SNIT	FLASH	PETE
KON	GAUGE	BAGEL
IGNITE	BUILDS	
LIVE	DONNA	
SPACE	SANK	SPA
ALIENATING	USER	
FELL	PIANO	SEAT
EASY	EMMYS	ASKS

(c) 2011 Tribune Media Services, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

12/20/11

- 38 TV's ___ Shore
- 39 Haul
- 42 Often state-run game
- 44 Noisy insects
- 46 Bawl out
- 47 Can material
- 49 Shish ___ BBQ favorite
- 50 Drivers' fees
- 51 Voting alliance
- 52 ___ beans
- 53 In the distance
- 54 Dissolve
- 55 In a ___; irate
- 56 Blood problem
- 57 On drugs
- 60 Feathery scarf



Kody Brown, center, poses with his wives, from left, Robyn, Christine, Meri and Janelle in a promotional photo for the reality series, "Sister Wives." The polygamous family made famous on the TLC show is asking a U.S. judge not to block their challenge of Utah's bigamy law. Kody Brown and wives Meri, Janelle, Christine and Robyn filed a lawsuit in Salt Lake City's U.S. District Court in July 2011. The stars say the law is unconstitutional because it prohibits them from living together and criminalizes their private sexual relationships. (AP Photo/TLC, George Lange, File)

Polygamous family launches challenge of Utah wife

JENNIFER DOBNER
Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Reality TV stars Kody Brown and his four wives say they just want one thing: to be left alone.

As authorities investigate them for bigamy, the TLC "Sister Wives" family is asking a federal judge to overturn part of Utah's bigamy law because it bans them from living together and criminalizes sexual relationships between unmarried consenting adults.

Their lawyer says the case is about privacy, not polygamy.

The case in federal court in Utah, however, could open up the possibility that a way of life for tens of thousands of self-described Mormon fundamentalists could be decriminalized.

While all states outlaw bigamy, some like Utah have laws that both prohibit having more than one marriage license at a time and also ban adults from living together and having a sexual relationship. □

Classifieds



Marriott Surf Club

2B2B Platinum
Gardenview \$16,000
Oceanview \$17,500
Oceanside \$18,500
Oceanfront \$29,000
2B2B Gold
Oceanview \$9500
Oceanside \$10,500
Oceanfront \$15,000

Marriott Ocean Club

2B2B Platinum
Oceanview \$19500
Oceanfront \$30,000
2B2B Gold
Oceanview \$9000
Oceanfront \$15,000

Plat Plus Holiday

OV \$44,000
OF \$62,000
Plat Plus NY
OV \$55,000
OF \$65,000

Michelle Donato
Licensed Real Estate Broker
Concierge Realty
concierge@cfi.rr.com
321-206-6293 x-101



Michelle Donato

FOR SALE

Time Share Resales from owners
La Cabana Beach and Raquet Club
1 br wk 49.50 Room: 118A pool/ ocean view
Price: \$7500 each
Cel. (297) 731-2012
roxannahalley@hotmail.com

193902C

FOR SALE

Time Share Resales from owners
Divi Phoenix
1 br wk 51 Room: 602 ocean view
1/2 bath 27 remain on contract 10
can be accelerated Price: \$8000
Cel. (297) 731-2012
roxannahalley@hotmail.com

193902D

FOR SALE

Time Share Resales from owners
La Cabana Beach and Raquet Club from owners 1 br wk 51
Room: 208C pool/ocean view
Price: \$8000
Call: (297) 731-2012
roxannahalley@hotmail.com

193902E



Violence Against Women

PSYCHIC HEALER

Love Expert
Solves all problems of life
Reunites Lovers , Brings Luck,
Health, Happiness Peace of Mind
website www.psychictwinpowers.com
Call Now (210)787-8692

107082

FOR SALE

X-MAS Week 51

Aruba Surf Club ocean view
2 bedroom 2 bath sleeps 8
large modern kitchen
washer/dryer \$39.900
Call: 586- 4231

193727

FOR SALE

Timeshare For Sale

wk 47 Playa Linda Studio
Rm 208 \$3200 B.O.
wk 48 Divi Phoenix 2 br-2b
ocean front hugh patio Villa
\$6400 B.O.
Local until 12/17 565-9394 or
508-651-0016
rmwjmwa@aol.com

193726

For Sale

Casa del Mar

wk 1 Presidential Suite #1313
Parcial ocean view \$25,000
E-mail: gkoon2@gmail.com

193740

FOR RENT

Do you want to stay more days
in Aruba?

We have apts & houses for rent
by days, weeks & months
Call: 733-6681 / 745-3510

E-mail:
marita.landa@gmail.com

193745

FOR SALE

Brand new home in Noord, only
3 minutes to high rise hotels
beaches & night life.

Full furniture, 2 bedrms, 2
baths, nice livingroom, cute
kitchen granite top for \$160,000
only!

Call: 733-6681 / 745-3510
E-mail:
mlandabusiness@hotmail.com

193745

FOR SALE

Time Share Resales from owners
Costa Linda Beach Resort
2 br wk 50/51 Room 3007
pool/ocean view Price: \$60.000
both Call. (297) 731-2012
roxannahalley@hotmail.com

193902B

FOR SALE

Time Share Resales from owners
Marriott Surf /Ocean Club
1,2,3 bedrooms all seasons, all
views best prices!! ever!!
week 51 and week 52. For more
info: Cel (297) 731-2012
roxannahalley@hotmail.com

193902H



**DOCTOR
ON DUTY
Oranjestad**

19 DECEMBER
Dr. Habibe



Pharmacy on duty

ORANJESTAD:

Fergusonstraat Tel: 582-45533-0620

SAN NICOLAAS:

Servicio Serio Preto Tel: 584-4833



Police

Police	581-1100
Oranjestad	582-4000
Noord	587-0009
Sta. Cruz	585-4710
Savaneta	584-7000
San Nicolas	584-5000

Emergency Numbers



Emergency	911
Police	100
Fire Dept.	115
Fire Dept. II	582-1108
Police Tipline	11141
Hospital	527-4000

Oranjestad

Ambulance	582-1234
Police	582-4000

San Nicolas

Ambulance	584-5050
Police station	584-5000
BGD San Nicolas	584-1606
Valero Security	584-1720

Services

Information	118
Setar	582-5151
Taxi	582-2116
Taxi- Tas	587-5900
Profesional Taxi	588-0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587-2300
Service Aruba	583-3232

Cruise Ship

19 Ocean Dream



Aruba Airport	Tel: 524-2424
American Airlines	Tel: 582-2700
Avianca	Tel: 588-0059
Dutch Antilles	Tel: 588-1900
Insel Air	Tel: 588-9314
Jet Blue	Tel: 588-2244
Spirit Airlines	Tel: 582-7117
Suriname Airways	Tel: 582-7896
Tiara Air	Tel: 588-4272
Venezolana	Tel: 583-7674

Foundation

Fellowship Clinic

Tel: 584-6440

Alcoholism & Drug Addiction,
Anonymity guaranteed

Foundation Anti-Droga

Aruba

(FADA) Tel: 583-2999

Foundation

Respetami

Tel: 582-4433

Diabetic Foundation

Arubano

Tel: 583-3808

Narcotics Anonymous

Tel: 583-8989

Foundation Amor

pa Prohimo

Tel: 583-3354 / 586-6976

Women in Difficulties

Foundation

Tel: 583-5400

U.S. zoo gets \$4.5 million for panda breeding

BRETT ZONGKER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The National Zoo announced a \$4.5 million gift Monday to fund its giant panda reproduction program for five more years.

Philanthropist David M. Rubenstein visited the pandas

with China's ambassador to the United States to announce the gift. Rubenstein is a co-founder and managing director of the Washington-based private equity firm The Carlyle Group. He is also on the board of regents at the Smithsonian Institution, which includes

the zoo.

"There are probably 10 million species on the face of the earth, and I doubt that any one of those species is more popular and more beloved than the giant panda," Rubenstein said at a news conference by the zoo's giant panda yard. He said the money is a holiday gift to the people of Washington and to the country because pandas make people happy.

"Hopefully this will result in more pandas being born here," he said.

The zoo said it will name the giant panda habitat af-

ter Rubenstein. The gift will also fund fellowships for biologists in the United States and China to work to save pandas, which are an endangered species.

With the funding commitment, the zoo can proceed with a five-year plan established with Chinese wildlife officials to try to produce another cub after years of trouble. Washington's pandas have produced only one cub, Tai Shan, who was sent to China to begin breeding.

The zoo said male panda Tian Tian has been showing early signs of breeding

behavior. But the zoo is securing frozen semen from a now-dead panda at the San Diego zoo to use as a backup next year.

The zoo is also making changes to the panda habitat, such as eliminating all artificial light at night and closing the indoor panda exhibit to the public by 4:30 p.m. each day to encourage natural breeding cycles that have come abnormally early for female panda Mei Xiang in years past. David Wildt, a head reproductive scientist at the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute, said chances of Mei Xiang having another cub may be slim because there have been five years of failed attempts to breed the panda couple.

He said Chinese scientists wanted to try one more time before switching out one or both of the Washington pandas for new animals from China.

In January, the Smithsonian signed a new five-year, \$2.5 million agreement with China to keep the popular pandas in Washington. Pandas date back nearly 40 years at the zoo. An earlier panda pair arrived in 1972 as a gift from China after President Richard Nixon's historic visit. The donation is unusual for Rubenstein, who has made large gifts to cultural institutions including museums and the Kennedy Center. □

PERFECT PLEASURE
Massage & Escort
The Best Girls and Men
24 Hours Service
* Serving Men - & - Woman - Couples
* Private Tour Red Light District
* Bachelors Party
The Best On The Happy Island
In out Call Free Pickup Rapid Delivery
Call Now 6603297
aruba_perfect_pleasure9@hotmail.com

DOLLS VIP
POWER BY PLATINUM
ESCAPE & MASSAGE
SERVICE:
MAN, WOMAN
COUPLES, RED LIGHT TOUR, BACHELORS PARTY
WE PICK YOU UP AND DELIVERY FREE.
CEL: 297 5675824
READY TO SERVE YOU IN A PROFESSIONAL WAY

Honey Dolls
Massage and escort service
Beautiful Latin Girls
Pick-up & Delivery 24/7
Serving Men-Couples- Women
All Genders
Red Light Tour
Bachelor Party Specialized
The best in the Caribbean
Call 565-9535

Simple the Best in Aruba
Heaven
567-0015 Massage & Escort
Full service massage • Men-Women-Couples
Open 24 hours - Call now!
Free pick-up & Delivery
Incall and outcall service
www.ArubaHeaven.com

SKY In ARUBA
24 hours Services
Massage & Escort
Experience one happy island the way you'll never forget
• Beautiful girls • Serving man • Woman • Couples
• Private Tour Red Light District • Bachelors Party
Rapid Delivery
Cell: 660-4660 In and out call

The First & Only Legal One in Aruba Since 1997
Yap Yum
565-9533
arubaescorts@hotmail.com
Massge Service
We service Men, Women & Couples
• We Guarantee
• Quality, Service & Reliability
Safe Tours to the Red Light District with private guide:
A 3 Hours tour includes a FREE Bottle of Wine
24 Hours Straight Service
7 Days a Week ANYTIME
Yap Yum • Yap Yum • Yap Yum • Yap Yum • Yap Yum • Yap Yum • Yap Yum • Yap Yum • Yap Yum • Yap Yum • Yap Yum • Yap Yum • Yap Yum • Yap Yum • Yap Yum • Yap Yum

OVER 20 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE
Pick up or Delivery
GOLD RUSH
ESCORT SERVICES
For men, women and couples
24 hours a day 7 days a week!
Call Now! 561-2598 or 748-6314
VISA MasterCard DISCOVER AMERICAN EXPRESS

Lady Gaga voted AP Entertainer of the Year

JAKE COYLE

AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — You might say that Lady Gaga's year really began in an egg. That's how she arrived at the Grammys in February, encased in a large, translucent pod carried by scantily clad dancers. When she "hatched" onstage, she effectively gave birth to "Born This Way," performing the eponymous lead single of her second studio album and anthem to self-acceptance. In 2011, the album would carry her around the world, where she rarely went unnoticed.

After a year of extravagant globe-trotting and relentless advocacy of tolerance, Lady Gaga has been voted Entertainer of the Year by members of The Associated Press. There were 135 ballots submitted by U.S. news organizations that make up the AP's membership. Editors and broadcasters were asked to cast their ballots for who had the most influence on entertainment and culture in 2011.

"I am humbled and honored to be named 'Entertainer of the Year' by The Associated Press," Lady Gaga said in a statement Monday signed "Mother Monster."

"My deepest gratitude to the broadcasters and journalists who've supported me over the years, and in

turn, are now supporting the loves of my life: my fans. Thank you for believing in 'Born This Way.' May you continue to brave the dreams of Showbiz."

Lady Gaga narrowly edged out the late Apple founder Steve Jobs by three votes. Many others received numerous votes, including Taylor Swift, Charlie Sheen, Adele and the cast of "Harry Potter." Previous winners of the AP Entertainer of the Year include Betty White, Swift, Tina Fey and Stephen Colbert.

But it was Lady Gaga whose eminence in 2011 stood out most to voters. While accepting the best pop vocal album Grammy for her previous disc, "The Fame Monster," earlier this year, she said stardom was an adjustment for her.

"When I wrote 'Born This Way,' I imagined (Whitney Houston) was singing it because I wasn't secure enough in myself to imagine I was a superstar," she said.

When the album was released in May, 1.1 million copies sold in the first week, partly aided by a dramatic discount from Amazon, which sold it for 99 cents. But it was an industry-shattering moment because an extraordinary 60 percent of sales in the first week were digital downloads. Altogether, it outsold the next



In this May 27, 2011 file photo, singer Lady Gaga performs on ABC's "Good Morning America" in Central Park in New York. Lady Gaga has been voted the Associated Press Entertainer of the Year. The determination was made by ballot by editors and broadcasters from U.S. news organizations that make up the AP's membership.

Associated Press

42 albums on the Billboard chart combined. As of October, worldwide sales had surpassed 8 million copies. "One of my greatest artworks is the art of fame," the 25-year-old told "60 Minutes" earlier this year. "I'm a master of the art of

fame." Lady Gaga, whose real name is Stefani Germanotta, is prepping for a "Born This Way" tour. Her "Monster Ball Tour" was still going strong earlier this year, which went a long way toward making her, according to Forbes, the

highest grossing female musician in 2011.

The magazine, which compiled pretax income earned from May 2010 to May 2011, said Lady Gaga earned \$90 million.

Paul Pronovost, editor of the Cape Cod Times, called Lady Gaga's "A Very Gaga Thanksgiving" — a bizarre ABC holiday special hosted by the singer — "a brilliant reach to mainstream America."

"Transcendent performers like Lady Gaga come around as often as Halley's Comet," says Pronovost. "She has that rare gift of sophisticated self-promotion, so outlandish at times you just can't look away" and the talent to back it up. "This is Madonna 4.0."

The concerts spawned an HBO special, which was nominated for five Emmys Awards and won one. Lady Gaga was a regular presence at award shows throughout the year. She won three Grammys in February, including best female pop vocal performance. She won two MTV Video Music Awards. She was recently nominated for three Grammys for next year's awards, including best album. This summer, her infamous meat dress — made of layers of Argentinian beef — was put on display at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. □

Collaboration is key VH1 Divas Soul event

MESFIN FEKADU

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — VH1 may have honored singing divas at its annual VH1 Divas special, but the night was all about collaboration.

50 Cent was hand-in-hand with Chaka Khan on the red carpet; Mavis Staples screamed her love for Florence Welch of Florence + the Machine and Ledisi gushed over meeting Martha Reeves.

"It's exciting. You see me, I'm standing next to the

fire," 50 Cent said, while Khan laughed.

The rapper said he called the veteran singer and told her he wanted to be her date. He said he and Khan are working together on music and movie projects. "Hopefully we'll be able to put together some movie things because her life story is epic," he said. "I want to be a part of it."

Khan added that 50 Cent is "savvy" and she's excited to learn from the younger generation.

"(He) knows the ropes in a way I don't, in a way I'm looking to. He'll be giving me a lot of direction in the future," she said.

Another unconventional pair was Welch and Staples, who told the London singer "I just love you so much."

"I saw you the other night on 'X Factor.' I saw you. I said there she go that machine!" Staples said, laughing along with Welch. Inside the event, there were more pairings, from Mary J. Blige, Kelly Clarkson and



From left, Chaka Khan, Mavis Staples and Erykah Badu perform onstage at "Vh1 Divas Celebrates Soul" on Sunday, Dec. 18, 2011, in New York.

Associated Press

Jennifer Hudson to Khan, Staples, Jessie J and Erykah Badu.

The night honored cit-

ies where soul music has thrived, like Philadelphia, Detroit, Memphis, Chicago and London. □



In a Monday, Dec. 5, 2011 file photo, Sir Paul McCartney performs on stage during his "Good Evening Europe" European Tour, his first since 2004, at the O2 arena in London.

Associated Press

Paul McCartney releasing an album of standards

NEW YORK (AP) — Paul McCartney is releasing an album of standards — plus two new songs of his own.

The former Beatle announced Monday that his new disc will be out Feb. 7. It doesn't have a title yet. He's already streaming one song, "My Valentine," on his website.

McCartney says he and John Lennon were inspired in their own writing by some of the standards. Some of them he first heard when his father performed them at home on piano.

Eric Clapton and Stevie Wonder make appearances on the disc, which was recorded with Diana Krall and her band.

McCartney says he's been thinking about the project for 20 years and at age 69 decided "if I don't do it now, I'll never do it." □

Former Miss Venezuela dies of breast cancer

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— Former Miss Venezuela Eva Ekvall, whose struggle with breast cancer was closely followed by Venezuelans, has died at age 28. Her family said Ekvall died Saturday at a hospital in Houston.

Ekvall was crowned Miss Venezuela at age 17 in 2000, and the following year she was third runner-up in the Miss Universe pageant in Puerto Rico. She went on to work as a model, actress and television news anchor.

She also wrote a book, "Fuera de Foco" ("Out of Focus"), about her struggle with cancer, which included images by photographer Roberto Mata.

Ekvall's family said in a statement Sunday that her remains were being cremated in Houston on Monday and that a service is to be held in Venezuela once



In this photo taken on Sept. 9, 2000, Eva Ekvall competes in the Miss Venezuela 2000 beauty contest in Caracas, Venezuela. Ekvall, whose struggle with breast cancer was closely followed by Venezuelans, has died at age 28.

Associated Press

her remains are returned to the country.

She was married to radio producer John Fabio Bermudez and had a 2-year-old daughter.

Her death brought an outpouring of condolences from Venezuelans, including from some prominent artists and politicians. □

Larsson's partner chides 'Dragon Tattoo' marketing

MALIN RISING

Associated Press

STOCKHOLM (AP) — The longtime partner of late Swedish crime writer Stieg Larsson says he wouldn't have approved of merchandise being linked to this week's release of a Hollywood adaptation of his bestselling novel, "The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo."

Eva Gabrielsson said Monday that Larsson would have instead used the buzz around his work to call attention to violence and discrimination against women.

"We would never have sold any rights for merchandising," Gabrielsson said. "It has nothing to do with books."

H&M has released a Dragon Tattoo Collection, created by costume designer Trish Summerville, that it says is inspired by Lisbeth Salander — the tattooed anti-heroine of Larsson's books and the film which opens Wednesday in the United States.

Gabrielsson and Larsson were a couple for more than 30 years, but never married. Larsson didn't leave a will, so his brother and father inherited the rights to his works when he died of a heart attack at age 50 in 2004.

The two have rejected Gabrielsson's suggestions that they are using Larsson's legacy for profit, and say they will donate their



Journalist Eva Gabrielsson, pictured in Stockholm, Sweden, on Jan. 15, 2011, longtime girlfriend of the Swedish author Stieg Larsson, who wrote the novel "The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo" before he died in 2004, aged 50.

Associated Press

earnings to causes he supported, including an anti-racism magazine that he worked for as a journalist. Still, Gabrielsson expressed concern that the political dimension of Larsson's books, including the feminist undertones, would be overlooked by the film's hype. She claims Larsson wanted to show that gender imbalances exist even in Sweden, one of the world's most egalitarian societies.

"The oppression of women exists everywhere, this incomprehensible discrimination," she said.

In Larsson's trilogy, Salander and journalist Mikael Blomqvist team up to solve

serial killings and sex trafficking scandals. Rooney Mara plays Salander and Daniel Craig plays Blomqvist in the David Fincher directed film. Mara suggested at a news conference last month that Salander isn't a feminist, and doesn't see herself as part of any group or subculture. "Does she know what film she has been in?" Gabrielsson said, disbelievingly. "Has she read the books? Has she not had any coaching?"

"Her entire being represents a resistance, an active resistance to the mechanisms that mean women don't advance in this world and in worst case scenarios are abused like she was." □

Med student Clarke wins 'Survivor: South Pacific'

By DERRIK J. LANG

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Sophie Clarke slayed the competition on "Survivor: South Pacific."

The brainy 22-year-old medical student from Willsboro, N.Y., overcame 39-year-old "Survivor" veteran Benjamin "Coach" Wade of Susanville, Calif., and 26-year-old high school baseball coach Albert Destrade of Plantation, Fla., to win the CBS reality competition's \$1 million grand prize Sunday. Clarke earned six votes from the nine-person jury of former players.

"I think I had my finger on the pulse of the game the whole time," said Clarke after it was announced she won.

Clarke secured her place among the final three contestants on the 23rd edition of "Survivor" by forging a strong alliance from the outset and winning three individual immunity challenges, including the final physical competition, which ousted seasoned 30-year-old "Survivor" veteran Oscar "Ozzy" Lusth of Venice, Calif., from the 39-day survival contest.

"I knew the only one that could beat me at a challenge — no offense, guys — was Sophie," Lusth said.

Wade, who previously competed on the "Tocantins" and "Heroes vs. Villains" editions, and Lusth, who was featured on the "Cook Islands" and "Micronesia" editions, formed strong alliances with new contestants, though Lusth spent most of the game's second half on Redemption Island battling fellow voted-off castaways for a chance to return to the game. □

Repressing democracy, with American arms



NICHOLAS D. KRISTOF
© 2011 New York Times

SITRA, Bahrain – When President Barack Obama decides soon whether to approve a \$53 million arms sale to our close but despotic ally Bahrain, he must weigh the fact that America has a major naval base here and that Bahrain is a moderate, modernizing bulwark against Iran. Yet he should also understand the systematic, violent repression here, the kind that apparently killed a 14-year-old boy, Ali al-Sheikh, and continues to torment his family. Ali grew up here in Sitra, a collection of poor villages far from the gleaming bank towers of Bahrain's skyline. Almost every day pro-democracy protests still bubble up in Sitra, and even when they are completely peaceful they are crushed with a barrage of American-made tear gas. People here admire much about America and welcomed me into their homes, but there is also anger that the tear gas shells that they sweep off the streets each morning are made by a Pennsylvania company, NonLethal Technologies. It is a private company that declined to comment, but the American government grants it a license for these exports – and every shell fired undermines our image. In August, Ali joined one of the protests. A policeman fired a shell at Ali from less than 15 feet away, according to the account of the family and human-rights groups. The shell apparently hit the boy in the back of the neck, and he died almost immediately, a couple of minutes' walk from his home. The government claims that the bruise was "inconsistent" with a blow from a tear gas grenade. Frankly, I've seen the Bahrain authorities lie so much that I don't credit their denial. Jawad al-Sheikh, Ali's father, says that at the hospital, the government tried to force him to sign papers saying Ali had not been killed by the police. King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa has recently distanced himself from the killings and torture, while pledging that Bahrain will reform. There have indeed been modest signs of improvement, and a member of the royal family, Saqer Al Khalifa, told me that progress will now be accelerated. Yet despite the lofty rhetoric, the police have continued to persecute Ali's family. For starters, riot policemen fired tear gas at the boy's funeral, villagers say. The police summoned Jawad for interrogation, most recently this month. He fears he will be fired from his job in the Ministry

of Electricity. Skirmishes break out almost daily in the neighborhood, with the police firing tear gas for offenses as trivial as honking to the tune of "Down, Down, Hamad." Disproportionately often, those tear gas shells seem aimed at Ali's house. Once, Jawad says, a shell was fired into the house through the front door. A couple of weeks ago, riot policemen barged into the house and ripped photos of Ali from the wall, said the boy's mother, Maryam Abdulla. "They're worried about their throne," she added, "so they want us to live in fear." Mourners regularly leave flowers and photos of Ali on his grave, which is in a vacant lot near the home. Perhaps because some messages call him a martyr, the riot police come regularly and smash the pictures and throw away the flowers. The family has not purchased a headstone yet, for fear that the police will destroy it. The repression is ubiquitous. Consider Zainab al-Khawaja, 28, whose husband and father are both in prison and have been tortured for pro-democracy activities, according to human rights reports. Police officers have threatened to cut off Khawaja's tongue, she told me, and they broke her father's heart by falsely telling him that she had been shipped to Saudi Arabia to be raped and tortured. She braved the risks by talking to me about this last week – before she was arrested, too. Khawaja earned her college degree in Wisconsin. She has read deeply of Gandhi and of Gene Sharp, an American scholar who writes about how to use non-violent protest to overthrow dictators. She was sitting peacefully protesting in a traffic circle when the police attacked her. First they fired tear gas grenades next to her and then handcuffed her and dragged her away – sometimes slapping and hitting her as video cameras rolled. The Bahrain Center for Human Rights says that she was beaten more at the police station. Khawaja is tough as nails, and when we walked alongside demonstrations together, she seemed unbothered by tear gas that left me blinded and coughing. But she worried about her 2-year-old daughter, Jude. And one time as we were driving back from visiting a family whose baby had just died, possibly because so much tear gas had been fired in the neighborhood, Khawaja began crying. "I think I'm losing it," she said. "It all just gets to me." Since the government has now silenced her by putting her in jail, I'll give her the last word. I asked her a few days before her arrest about the proposed American arms sale to Bahrain. "At least don't sell them arms," she pleaded. "When Obama sells arms to dictators repressing people seeking democracy, he ruins the reputation of America. It's never in America's interest to turn a whole people against it." □



The believer's atheist



ROSS DOUTHAT
© 2011 New York Times

Of the many remarkable things about Christopher Hitchens, who died Thursday after one of the most prolific and provocative careers in modern Anglo-American letters, perhaps the most remarkable was how much religious believers liked him. Not all believers, of course: When Hitchens' esophageal cancer diagnosis became public last year, the famous atheist took obvious pleasure in quoting the none-too-Christian sentiments that bubbled up on various religious blogs and message boards (e.g. "Who else feels Christopher Hitchens getting terminal throat cancer was God's revenge for him using his voice to blaspheme him?"). But in the world of journalism, among his peers and competitors and sparring partners, it was nearly impossible to find a religious person who didn't have a soft spot for a man who famously accused faith of poisoning absolutely everything. Intellectually minded Christians, in particular, had a habit of talking about Hitchens as though he were one of them already – a convert in the making, whose furious broadsides against God were just the prelude to an inevitable reconciliation. (Or as a fellow Catholic once murmured to me: "He just protests a bit too much, don't you think?") This is not a sentiment that was often expressed about Rich-

ard Dawkins, Sam Harris, or any other member of the New Atheist tribe. But where Hitchens was concerned, no insult he hurled or blasphemy he uttered could shake the almost filial connection that many Christians felt for him. Some of this reflected his immense personal charm, his willingness to debate with Baptists and drink with Catholics and be comradely to anyone who took ideas seriously. But there was something deeper at work as well.

American Christian intellectual life is sustained today, to a large extent, by the work of writers very much like Hitchens – by essayists and journalists and novelists and poets, from G.K. Chesterton and C.S. Lewis to W.H. Auden and Evelyn Waugh, who shared his English roots, his gift for argument and his abiding humanism. Recognizing this affinity, many Christian readers felt that in Hitchens' case there had somehow been a terrible mix-up, and that a writer who loved the King James Bible and "Brideshead Revisited" surely belonged with them, rather than with the bloodless prophets of a world lit only by Science. In this they were mistaken, but not entirely so.

At the very least, Hitchens' anti-religious writings carried a whiff of something absent in many of atheism's less talented apostles – a hint that he was not so much a disbeliever as a rebel, and that his atheism was mostly a political romantic's attempt to pick a fight with the biggest Tyrant he could find.

This air of rebellion did not make him a believer, but it lent his blasphemies an air of danger and intrigue, as though he were an agent of the Free French distributing literature deep in Vichy. Certainly he always seemed well aware of the extent to which his writings traded on the unusual frisson of saying "No!" to a supposedly nonexistent being. Perhaps he was a little too aware. Like most writers of a religious per-

suasion I was once enlisted to publicly debate Hitchens, with predictably disastrous results for God. But my strongest memory comes from a Washington dinner party two years ago, when he cornered me in the pantry and insisted on having a long argument about the Gospel narratives.

The point he was particularly eager to make was this: "Suppose Jesus of Nazareth did rise from the dead – what would that prove, anyway?"

It's a line whose sheer cussedness cuts to the heart of Hitchens' charm. But it also hints at the way that atheism – especially a public and famous atheism – can become as self-defended as any religious dogma, impervious to any new fact or unexpected revelation.

For Hitchens, those defenses stayed up till the end. His last word on the possibility of conversion was at once characteristically dismissive and characteristically protective of his hard-earned reputation as an Enemy of God: "Suppose I ditch the principles I have held for a lifetime, in the hope of gaining favor at the last minute? I hope and trust that no serious person would be at all impressed by such a hucksterish choice."

In his very brave and very public dying, though, one could see again why so many religious people felt a kinship with him. When stripped of Marxist fairy tales and techno-utopian happy talk, rigorous atheism casts a wasting shadow over every human hope and endeavor, and leads ineluctably to the terrible conclusion of Philip Larkin's poem "Aubade" – that "death is no different whined at than withstood."

Officially, Hitchens' creed was one with Larkin's. But everything else about his life suggests that he intuited that his fellow Englishman was completely wrong to give in to despair.

My hope – for Hitchens, and for all of us, the living and the dead – is that now he finally knows why. □

Ocean life illuminates the perils of pollution



ERIK OLSEN

© 2011 New York Times

FORT PIERCE, Fla. – Edith Widder presented a handful of greenish muck that had been pulled from the shallows of the Indian River Lagoon and cupped it in her palm.

"See that?" she asked. "That's a lot of decayed organic matter. It's just a great holding area for pollutants."

Collecting mud is a new calling for Widder, a marine biologist who is known around the world for her work in much larger bodies of water.

Over a career spanning almost 30 years, Widder has made hundreds of dives in deep-sea submersibles to study the remarkable number and diversity of animals that make light. This ability, called bioluminescence, is strikingly common, shared by as many as 90 percent of the creatures in the open ocean.

"Animals use light to help them survive, to help them find food, to attract mates and to defend against predators," she said. For example, in the ocean – "where there are no trees or bushes to hide behind" – a bioluminescent creature can use light to attract larger predators to its own enemies.

Now, Widder has found a way to put bioluminescence to work to fight pollution in the Indian River

Edith Widder, who has spent a career studying sea creatures with bioluminescence, holds a cup of glowing bacteria in Ft. Pierce, Fla. Widder is now using her knowledge of the bacteria that makes bioluminescence as a tool to fight pollution in the Indian River Lagoon in South Florida.

(Erik Olsen/The New York Times)

Lagoon, a 156-mile estuary that scientists say is one of Florida's most precious and threatened ecosystems.

Back in her laboratory here, she mixes the sediment samples with bioluminescent bacteria called *Vibrio fischeri*. Using a photometer to measure the light given off by the bacteria, she can quickly determine the concentration of toxic chemicals in the sediment by seeing how much and how quickly the light dims as the chemicals kill the bacteria.

Measuring the level of pollutants in the sediment provides a better indication of the estuary's health than measuring the level of chemicals in the water, Widder said. "Pollution in water is transient," she said, "but in sediment it's persistent."

Her samples have revealed high concentrations of heavy metals and nutrients like phosphorus and nitrogen, which can cause runaway algae growth; those organisms consume



oxygen and stifle life in the estuary.

Widder has also designed sensors that are placed around the estuary and can beam real-time data like current and flow direction of the water. Pairing those data with the toxicity of the sediment, she can trace the source of pollution. The method is far cheaper and quicker than the more common practice of sending samples to a lab for analysis.

"The potential benefits of Edie's efforts are huge," said George Jones, executive director of Indian River-

keeper, a local conservation organization.

Other organizations monitor the waters here, but Widder's use of bioluminescent bacteria as a pollution marker and her system's ability to do real-time monitoring are singular.

"One of the remarkable things about Edie is that, for a biologist, she is the most technologically savvy scientist I've ever come across," said Bruce Robison, a senior scientist at the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute in California.

Another homegrown project of Widder's design is opening a new perspective on deep-sea life.

Less than a minute and a half after the jellyfish lights were activated in the Eye-in-the-Sea's first test, in the Gulf of Mexico in June 2004, a six-foot squid lurched out of the darkness toward the camera. It was a species never seen before by scientists.

"I couldn't have asked for a better proof of concept," Widder said.

In December 2009, another Eye-in-the-Sea camera was placed in 3,000 feet of water in the Monterey Canyon, off the coast of California, where it remained for a year. The resulting videos, spanning about 5,300 hours, are being studied by researchers and graduate

She long wondered what kind of animals lurked beyond the bubbles and lights of big and noisy manned submersibles.

So she developed Eye-in-the-Sea, an ocean-floor camera that uses a type of red light that sea creatures cannot see.

She drew animals to the camera with a spinning dial of LED lights resembling the distress call of a species of bioluminescent jellyfish, *Atolla wyvillei*, that appears to use light as a kind of burglar alarm, luring predators to go after whatever is attacking it.

students at the Monterey Bay Aquarium, who have discovered numerous new behaviors of deep-sea animals.

In March, Widder plans to deploy her system in Bahamian waters to study the behavior of deep-sea sharks that she hopes will be attracted to the spinning LED lights of her fake jellyfish.

Widder, 60, graduated from Tufts University, then earned a master's in biochemistry and a Ph.D. in neurobiology from the University of California, Santa Barbara. □